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Clinton accused over Irish policy

US links with Britain 'worst since 1773'

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO, PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S support for Gerry Adams has left Anglo-American relations in their worst state since the war of independence, the former Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday.

Mr Clinton had also squandered American supremacy since the cold war, leaving other countries with the impression that he was weak and that his word was meaningless. "In private our allies say what they dare not admit in public: that America is no longer the world leader it was under Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Sad to say, our allies are right," Mr Baker — who served under Mr Bush — told the Republican convention in San Diego.

On Ireland, Mr Baker said: "We have seen a representative of the IRA hosted in the White House just prior to its resumption of terrorist bombings in London. The result has been the worst relationship with our closest ally, Britain, since the Boston Tea Party in 1773."

His attack infuriated the Clinton Administration and Sinn Féin, surprised British ministers who believe that the relationship between the two governments has improved of late, and delighted Unionists who welcomed it as a breath of fresh air.

There was no immediate response from the White House, which regards Northern Ireland as one of Mr Clinton's foreign policy successes. But a spokesman for the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign expressed astonishment that Mr Baker should even raise an issue on which the present Administration had made progress and his had not.

He conceded that a formal peace agreement was still a long way off, but said there had been a great change in the popular mood, all-party peace talks had begun and for 18 months the IRA had observed a ceasefire.

Sinn Féin denounced Mr Baker's comments as chief propaganda and accused him



Baker speaking at the San Diego convention

of "cynically trying to exploit the conflict in Ireland for party political advantage in the US presidential campaign."

The statement, issued in the name of national executive member Pat McGowan, continued: "In the search for lasting peace in Ireland, no US president has made a more positive or constructive contribution than President Clinton." When in office, Mr Baker had pursued "the failed policy of allowing the British Government to dictate US policy on Ireland."

While allowing for their electioneering tone, many British ministers would be surprised by Mr Baker's remarks and his conclusion that relations were at such a low. Mr Clinton certainly enraged London by admitting Mr Adams to America, allowing him to raise funds and receiving him at the White House — all in spite of furious British protests. But even British officials privately concede that those concessions helped to secure an 18-month ceasefire and that the two governments have been working together quite harmoniously since the "visa wars".

Mr Clinton made a triumphant visit to Northern Ireland last autumn, when he was given a hero's welcome by Catholics and Protestants alike, and he strongly condemned the IRA's resumption of violence.

However, David Wilshire, vice-chairman of the Conser-

vative backbench Northern Ireland committee, welcomed Mr Baker's intervention, saying: "Hallelujah! At long last a note of realism in America. At last someone is putting people's lives above grubbing for votes. I applaud him for it. He is absolutely right."

Mr Baker's remarks were also welcomed by Unionists, who were highly critical of Mr Clinton's determination to reward Mr Adams politically for the IRA ceasefire and whose fears were fuelled by an IRA briefing paper in 1994 describing Mr Clinton as the first president in decades to be influenced by the Irish American lobby.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionists' security spokesman, said Americans had made the mistake of believing that the ceasefire was permanent. "It has given the IRA a breathing space — and it wasn't only the Americans who were to blame in falling into the trap. Mr Baker is right in what he says about the long-term effects of inviting Adams to the White House. The Americans' involvement will prove to have been most unhelpful."

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said: "Mr Baker is prepared to say what many Americans and many people in the United Kingdom — think about President Clinton. His approach to terrorism is inconsistent, he wants to be tough against terrorism internationally, yet he is blind to the role of the Provisional IRA and Sinn Féin. If he wants to be consistent, he should ostracise Gerry Adams and make sure that the IRA has the same standing as the Oklahoma bombers."

But Joe Hendron, SDLP MP for West Belfast, praised Mr Clinton for devoting so much energy to Northern Ireland. "The Republicans are playing politics. They have to do that because they have their work cut out in trying to get Bob Dole elected."

Convention reports, page 11



Alan Turner, right, a fan of Margaret Thatcher, and a friend on the beach at Benidorm with Glenda Jackson

Nuevo Labour fights on the Costa beaches

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BENIDORM

A TOUCH overdressed for a Benidorm beach in high season, Glenda Jackson MP picked her way unsteadily through a labyrinth of gleaming bodies, bare breasts and astonished expressions. The much-vaunted Labour campaign had begun.

"Enough of Tory lies," she intoned, in a voice half-way between Queen Elizabeth I and Hedda Gabler. "Vote Labour. We'll get Britain back together again."

A "Whoah" — or words to that effect — erupted from a group of short-haired, over-toasted men. "It's Glenda, lads," one said. "You know, the actress like."

"Vote Labour," Ms Jackson said to them, wisely keeping her distance. She should really have kept her counsel. "Naah," said the one the others called Jimbo. "We like

the Tories here." Undeterred, she marched on through the hot sand in her high heels.

"Enough of Tory lies, eh?" she said to an elderly woman. "Don't you think it's time for Labour?" Betty Beardman, a grandmother on holiday, nodded gamely in approval. Ms



"If you bump into her, pretend to be French"

Jackson's eyes lit up at the sight of this quarry.

"A crime, the health service, the education system — the Tories have left our country in a mess."

Her quarry nodded again, wide-eyed in the presence of the film star. The Mediterranean whooshed gently and a game of beach tennis clattered noisily nearby. A stick of rock was produced with the words "Tory lies" engraved along the side. It was thrust into the hands of the grandmother on holiday. "You take care of yourself, now," said Ms Jackson, moving on.

A large crowd had now assembled: Spaniards, Dutchmen, French boys in search of action, large inquisitive Germans, and a few curious lifeguards. Someone tugged at my sleeve. "That's Glenda Jackson, isn't it?" said a middle-aged man in Spanish. I told him he was right, and he turned ecstatically to yank his

wife in our direction. "Look, Glenda Jackson!" The señora was unimpressed. "OK, so she was nicer when she was younger, you know. We all age. Even you will." The señora was even less impressed.

The procession moved on, gathering new gawkers with every step. Next stop, a perfect lager drinker from central casting, the hair on his head no longer than the stubble on

John Prescott's chin. On his right shoulder, a loving product of some backstreet calligrapher, was the word Tracy. "The wife," he explained. Over his left nipple, for good measure, was inscribed the word Simon. "My older lad."

Alan Turner, 35, from Stockport, told Ms Jackson: "I always voted Tory, and if

Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 17

Princess wins bar on photographer

The Princess of Wales obtained an emergency court order last night against Martin Stenning, a freelance photographer.

Mr Stenning, who is often at the gates of Kensington Palace, is restrained from approaching within 300 metres of the Princess or communicating with her.

Mr Stenning, who is often at the gates of Kensington Palace, is restrained from approaching within 300 metres of the Princess or communicating with her.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Boys take command in the A-level battle of the sexes

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

BOYS asserted their dominance at A level yesterday. Five took six grade A passes and boys' schools took most of the top places in the first results table.

In recent years, however, girls have been achieving record scores at GCSE and closing the gap at A level.

King Edward VI Grammar School, in Chelmsford, Essex, topped a provisional table of state sector results. The 111 boys averaged almost two As and one B grade, far exceeding the best performance by a state school last year. Tony Tuckwell, the head teacher, said: "These youngsters worked very hard, in spite of the jeremiahs who claimed the exams are easier this year."

Matthew Weston headed to the beach after finding out about his six grade As, not to celebrate but to spend the day serving at Sherry's Baked

Potato Stall on Skegness seafront. He took additional mathematics as well as further mathematics, mathematics, chemistry, general studies and physics at Skegness Grammar School.

Tristan Barback, 17, from Aylesbury Grammar School in Buckinghamshire, achieved

his six passes in three mathematics papers, physics, economics and general studies. Ben Chan, also 17, of The Blue Coat School in Liverpool, received five As yesterday in chemistry, economics, general studies, further maths and pure maths, adding to his A in mathematics last year.



Matthew Weston: serves at a baked potato stall

Jeremy Rabone's A-grade success was boosted by night classes where he studied for his sixth A level because he could not fit it into the timetable at Wirral Grammar School in Merseyside. He will read chemistry at Worcester College, Oxford. Jeremy Brookman needed only two grade Es to get to Oxford, but scored half a dozen As: in maths, further maths, chemistry, physics, computing and general studies at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys, in Birmingham.

Rejoicing students, page 4

Police act to block porn on Internet

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD has launched a drive to clean up the Internet and has told companies which provide access to block hard-porn sites or face prosecution.

A senior officer from the Yard's clubs and vice unit has written to 140 companies, giving them a long list of such sites. The action, supported by the Home Office and the Department of Trade, follows a seminar this month involving 35 "service provider" companies. At the meeting, police showed copies of material taken from the Internet and urged the industry to adopt self-regulation.

Many of the 133 sites listed involve paedophilia, and police say that pictures on the sites can be easily copied.

No service provider has ever been prosecuted for the material shown on the Internet, but the Yard is confident that it could mount a case. Senior officers argue that transmis-

sion of obscene material is a breach of the obscenity laws, potentially placing the companies in the same position as distributors of pornographic magazines and videos.

Yesterday Chief Inspector Stephen French, who signed the letter, said this was the first time such action had been taken. There have been investigations and prosecutions against paedophiles in a number of countries, but Internet firms have not previously been involved.

Mr French said the danger was that the newsgroups could be read by anyone with access to the Internet and this could include children. Sally Weatherall, legal adviser to Internet Service Providers' Association, which has 60 members, said some companies had already blocked offending sites. Members had begun the talks with the police to find a way to regulate the material.

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'This is a truly happy ending. It is a miracle they are alive and they are very happy to be home'

Capsized mariners lived for five days on a raw seagull

By Shirley English

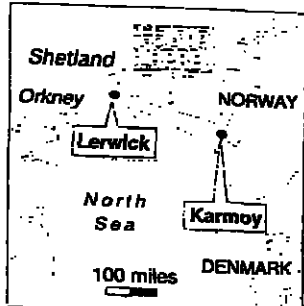
TWO Norwegian rowers, feared drowned at sea after their boat capsized in fierce weekend storms, survived in the North Sea for five days by eating a raw seagull.

Audun Nordhus, 39, and Trygve Norman, 34, both oil workers, were found yesterday, adrift 100 miles off Shetland two days after an air-sea search for them had been called off. They had been missing since Saturday.

They told coastguards their 19ft rowing boat capsized on Saturday night in gales and although they managed to inflate their liferaft, there was no time to grab food or water. The only thing that kept them alive was a dead seagull.

Yesterday, weakened by hunger and dehydration, the men were plucked to safety by Scottish fishermen on the vessel *Alene* who spotted them at midday. It brought to an end a four-day international rescue operation in which six aircraft from Shetland and Norway scoured 100,000 square miles of sea, but failed to trace the men or boat.

Eric Himmelfarb, from the rescue centre at Stavanger, which co-ordinated the rescue, said: 'They managed to get



into the liferaft and they caught a seagull and ate it and got some rain water off the top of the raft in order to survive.

The sailors were airlifted by Norwegian coastguards to hospital in Haugesund, Norway, where they had an emotional reunion with their families, who had feared they were dead.

Dr Holst Larsen, who was treating them, said: 'They are very happy to be back. I was surprised how well they looked. They walked into the hospital unaided. They were hungry, but not that dehydrated.'

Their condition was surprisingly good given what they went through and they have now left the hospital and gone home to their families.

Norwegian coastguards said it was a miracle they were alive. The men told them that

they had seen helicopters overhead, but had been unable to attract their attention. On Tuesday the initial search had been called off and it was only restarted when their capsized boat was found on Wednesday night by Scottish fishermen on the *Moray Way*.

The rowers planned to row from Norway to Shetland. They started out from Karmoy Island, off southern Norway, last Wednesday and expected the journey to take one week. It was their second attempt at the 240-mile voyage. When they failed to report to an oil rig at the Frigg oilfield, half-way across on Saturday, relatives alerted coastguards.

Angus Bang Anderson, of the Norwegian coastguard, said the full story would not emerge until the men had been interviewed by the authorities.

The men's radio appears to have failed and the satellite navigator beacon was unused. Mr Anderson said: 'This is a truly happy ending. It is a miracle they are alive.'

Mr Nordhus has two children, aged 6 and 8 and Mr Norman has three children, aged between 6 and 16. Attempting the same voyage in June, the two adventurers were forced back by exhaustion and bad weather.



Mihelsen and Nordhus setting off for Shetland from Karmoy Island last week in the rowing boat that capsized in gale-force winds

Swimmer survives five hours in North Sea

A WOMAN who went for a swim in the North Sea was found five hours later, four and a half miles out. A lifeguard official said it was a miracle that she was still alive.

Danielle Ackroyd, 28, was seen going into the water in a swimming costume at Redcar, North Yorkshire, at 8.50 yesterday morning after leaving her clothes on the beach. Within an hour two lifeboats, a police spotter plane and an RAF helicopter were

scrambled after a passer-by raised the alarm.

However, Ms Ackroyd, from Darlington, Co Durham, was spotted by a passing ferry which radioed the skipper of the Tees dredger *Cleveland*, who launched a boat to rescue her. She was taken to Middlesbrough General Hospital by an RAF helicopter, suffering from hypothermia. Her condition was said to be stable last night.

The helicopter pilot, Flight Lieutenant

David Farman, said: 'She was very cold, and she must have been an Olympic standard swimmer not to drown. Although we had not given up all hope, we were not expecting to find her alive after four hours. We expected to pick up a dead body.'

'She was wearing a swimming costume and appears to have gone out for a swim. How she survived so long in the North Sea is amazing and from previous experience I wouldn't have

expected anyone to be alive after that amount of time in the water.'

The Redcar lifeboat launch co-ordinator, Dave Camish, said: 'It's a miracle she was alive. It defies all logic and the textbooks that she could survive so long and so far out. She's certainly very lucky to be alive and I only hope she makes a full recovery. It might be summer but the sea temperature is still very low and she must have been totally exhausted.'



Burne-Jones's *Two Girls with a Viol and Music*

Thieves raid van for £500,000 painting

A PAINTING worth about £500,000 was stolen from a delivery van outside Christie's auctioneers in London, police disclosed yesterday. Insurers offered a reward of up to £50,000 for the safe return of *Two Girls with a Viol and Music*, by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Cole Burne-Jones, stolen on Tuesday.

Detectives believe the 27in x 24in oil canvas, set in a gilt frame, was taken when the shipping agent's driver and male were inside Christie's office in Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, delivering

another item. The work had been stored in an unmarked wooden air-freight crate. A stockily built white man seen near the van between 11.30am and 11.40am on Tuesday is being sought.

Mark Dalrymple, a specialist fine art loss adjuster for Tyler and Co, said that his company had circulated details of the painting in Europe and the United States through Interpol.

A spokeswoman for Christie's said: 'The theft did not take place on our premises. The painting was not our property.'

Zulu boy may come back to London

By Inigo Gilmore

THE natural father of a ten-year-old Zulu boy who was forced to leave his comfortable London home for a South African township denied yesterday that he was about to return his son to the white woman the boy regards as his mother.

But Charles Mahlangu, who won custody of the boy after a legal battle which ended in the House of Lords, said he had not ruled out the idea.

Expectations grew yesterday that the boy, Sifiso Mahlangu, was to be sent back to England to complete his education. He was separated from his foster mother, Salome Stopford, 50, who has looked after him since he was a baby, after the legal wrangle which followed her attempts to adopt him. Mr Mahlangu agreed at the time of the custody battle to return Sifiso within six months if the boy was not happy with his new life near Johannesburg.

Mrs Stopford said that Mr Mahlangu had repeated his pledge to return Sifiso in several interviews in South Africa, but she had been unable to contact him. 'I wish he would phone me and confirm that he is sending Sifiso back. I just hope that Charles isn't lying, that would be cruelly beyond words.'

Split loyalties, page 14

Girl to fly home as parents are held on drug charges

By Mark Huband in Rabat and Emma Wilkins

A GIRL aged eight was being cared for by the British Consul in Tangier last night after her parents were charged with attempting to smuggle £850,000 worth of drugs out of Morocco.

Victoria Richards, who was with her parents, David and Jill, when they were arrested last week, will fly home to Britain to stay with relatives within the next few days. The family, from Alnwick, Northumberland, were stopped by police at the port of Tangier as they attempted to board a ferry to Spain nine days ago. The parents face up to ten years in prison.

Officers, who are believed to have been acting on a tip-off, found 221.5 kilograms of hashish with an estimated value of £850,000 hidden in the bodywork of the family's camper van. Mr Richards, 44, a former North Sea diver and pub barman, and his wife, 40, appeared in court in Tangier yesterday charged with transporting and attempting to



Victoria: has seen her mother twice since arrest

held in separate wings of Tangier jail since their arrest. Victoria, who is the couple's only child, has seen her mother twice in an annex in the local courthouse. She is in remarkably high spirits and has been playing on the beach, according to Stephanie Sweet, the British Consul.

'I have been looking after Vicky since her parents were arrested and she is very happy and absolutely fine', Ms Sweet said.

Sweet said: 'She is taking it all very well but obviously the reunions have been very emotional for her mother.'

Friends and neighbours of the couple said they were astonished by their arrest. Mr Richards had been forced to give up work five years ago after he injured his back and occasionally worked behind the bar in local pubs, friends said.

Mrs Richards has two children from a previous marriage who live with their father in the North East. The family left home on July 29, telling neighbours they were holidaying with Mr Richards' parents in Oxfordshire. They flew to Malaga, Spain, from Gatwick airport a fortnight ago and collected a camper van.

Since December the government says it has smashed at least ten major cannabis trafficking networks. Earlier this week Sally Griffiths, 18, and Claire Martin, 19, were sentenced to five years in a Moroccan jail after being found guilty of drug trafficking. Five kilograms of cannabis were found in their luggage.

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Bosnian refugee secures four passes and place at Oxford after starting English studies only in 1992

Rejoicing students are in a class of their own

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOSNIAN refugee who arrived in Britain four years ago speaking hardly any English clinched a place at Oxford University yesterday. Ana Ignjatovich was a 14-year-old visiting relative in Somerset when violence erupted in their home city of Sarajevo.

The family was given a church house in Taunton and Ana and her younger sister, Boyana, were sent to Bishop Fox's School where staff gave them special English tuition. A few months later Ana wrote to the headmaster expressing thanks for the help she and her family had received. "We left our cousins, aunts, uncles, grandmother and grandfather in Sarajevo but the school helped us to forget the war for a moment," she said.

Within two years she had gained 12 GCSE passes and moved on to Richard Huish College, where she was told last January that she had a place to read medicine at Oriel College, Oxford, provided her A-levels were good enough. A delighted Ana learnt yesterday that she had gained three As in chemistry, maths and biology and a C in English literature, securing her place at Oriel.

The youngest successful candidate was Alp Bora Tokur, 11, who passed computer science after just nine months' work. He received evening and weekend tuition at Northwood Computer Tutorial Centre, north London, which is run by Dr Ronald Ryde, a retired university lecturer.

The extra hours did not stop Alp Bora coming top of his class at Highgate School for Boys, and he kept his A-level endeavours a secret from his fellow pupils. "I'm very pleased. It was hard work and not easy, but I put my mind to it," he said.

Dr Mehmet Tokur, his father, said: "We knew that he was different from the beginning and he has been interested in computers since about the age of eight. Instead of playing games he would write his own computer programs on my computer at home."

Dr Ryde, 65, said the boy's success proved his theory that children had far greater intellectual potential than the school system allowed for. He



Alison Davies and Nicki Heinen, of King Edward VI School in Handsworth, gained a total of nine passes

teaches computing to more than 60 children and also saw four 14-year-olds through A-level this summer.

Dr Ryde said: "I believe that children can do much better than we think. As far as I am concerned, students who go to university are the OAPs of the academic world because they have passed their mental peak."

Two sets of twins at Northampton High School were celebrating after sweeping the board with A grades. Ruth and Helen Goddard, 18, iden-

tical twins, each got As in maths, chemistry, French and AS-level biology, which is worth half an A-level. The girls are going to Oxford to study physiological science, but will be at different colleges.

Several schools boasted youngsters with five A grades. Birkenhead School, an independent boys' school in Merseyside, led the way with six pupils gaining five-grade As. Stuart Haggett, the head teacher, said: "Everybody has excelled themselves."

Four girls at King Edward

VI School for Girls in Handsworth, Birmingham, achieved five As. Elspeth Insh, the head teacher, said: "It is interesting that so many of our best girls have chosen to take science subjects when there is so much concern nationally about the take-up of sciences in schools today."

Alison Davies achieved grade As in biology, chemistry, maths, further maths and general studies, and is to study mathematics at Durham University. Ann-Marie Earwaker's passes were in chemistry, further mathematics, general studies, maths and physics and she plans to study engineering at Cambridge. Morag McCulloch and Samantha Walker also got five A grades.

Ms Insh said: "I am sure there are two very important factors at play here. The first is that this is a single-sex school so there is no stigma attached to doing science subjects. The second is that because this is a selective school there are a lot of very clever girls who can

work together and inspire one another."

Martin Davidson, head boy of the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, overcame glandular fever to get A grades in mathematics, business, chemistry, politics/economics and general studies. "About two months before the exams I caught glandular fever and you cannot concentrate for more than five minutes because it whacks you out. It meant I had to cram my revision all into the last few weeks before the exams. I think I have got a very good short-term memory."

Rebecca Williams, 18, overcame disability to achieve three A grades. She cannot write because of a condition affecting her tendons, and had to dictate her examinations to teachers at Durham Johnston comprehensive, Durham. Pat Dwyer, the deputy headmistress, said: "She was speaking so quickly that the teachers came out shattering."

Education, page 28

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S REDUCED RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 17 AUGUST 1996

Account	Balance	Annual Interest	Monthly Interest
		Gross % p.a. Net Equiv. % p.a.	Gross % p.a. Net Equiv. % p.a.
TDISAVER*			
£100+	£1+ (Base Rate)	0.25	0.20
£100+	0.50	0.40	-
£250+	1.00	0.80	-
£500+	1.50	1.20	-
£1,000+	2.00	1.60	-
£25,000+	2.50	2.00	-
Premier Deposit*			
£1+	0.25	0.20	-
£100+	1.50	1.20	-
£1,000+	2.50	2.32	-
£25,000+	3.55	2.92	-
First Choice*			
£50+	1.25	1.00	-
£500+	2.50	1.76	-
£2,500+	2.70	2.16	-
£10,000+	3.25	2.60	-
£25,000+	3.65	2.92	-
Bonus Account			
(Including Bonus)			
£500+	2.50	1.84	-
£2,500+	2.80	2.24	-
£10,000+	3.35	2.68	-
£25,000+	3.75	3.00	-
One Month Notice			
£500+	1.70	1.36	1.05
£2,500+	2.20	1.76	1.36
£10,000+	2.70	2.16	1.68
£25,000+	3.20	2.56	2.04
£50,000+	3.50	3.12	2.36
Special Asset			
£2,500+	2.85	2.28	1.75
£5,000+	3.20	2.56	2.08
£10,000+	4.15	3.32	2.60
£20,000+	4.40	3.52	2.76
£40,000+	4.70	3.76	2.96
£80,000+	5.05	4.04	3.08
£150,000+	5.30	4.24	3.20
£300,000+	5.70	4.56	3.48
£500,000+	6.05	4.88	3.68
£1,000,000+	6.20	4.96	3.76
Monthly Saver (Premier Rate) @ £10+			
Special Interest Bond	£500+	5.20	-
TESSAs Issue II			
Classic	£25+	5.45*	-
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£25,000+	5.50	4.40	3.24
£50,000+	5.60	4.48	3.32
£100,000+	5.70	4.56	3.40
Maturity Bond			
£5,000+	5.00	4.00	3.04
£25,000+	5.50	4.40	3.24

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THE LEADING STATE SCHOOLS

King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, Essex, has the highest score in the first table of state pupils' A-level results today. The full table, including independent schools' results, will appear next Thursday. The survey by *The Times* is based on university points scores: an A grade is worth ten points, B eight, C six, D four and E two, excluding general studies. The total is then divided by the number of candidates. King Edward VI had the top A-level score in the Government's league tables last year. But the pass rate was even higher this summer, with 99.5 per cent of all entries reaching at

least an E grade. Inevitably, most of the top places were taken by grammar schools. Chelmsford, Essex, was the top girls' school, with London, was the top boys' school, with the most successful mixed school. The boys of Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, registered the top score for a comprehensive intake, although the school has become selective since last year. Folkestone School for Girls was the leading current comprehensive. Some leading schools could not be contacted yesterday, but the survey reflected the rise in A-level grades.

School	Candidates	Points
King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford (GM/Sel/Boys)	111	27.30
Emmanuel's Grammar School, N.Yorks (Volaid./Sel/Boys)	73	25.80
Newstead Wood School for Girls, Bromley (GM/Sel/Girls)	100	25.80
Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet (GM/Comp/Boys)	91	24.30
St. Olave's Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Boys)	189	24.00
The Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe (GM/Sel/Boys)	102	24.00
Colchester County School, Essex (GM/Sel/Girls)	44	23.96
Colyton Grammar School, Devon (GM/Sel/Mix)	197	23.80
The Latimer School, London (GM/Sel/Boys)	96	23.40
Henrietta Barnett School, London (LEA/Sel/Girls)	96	23.20
Reading School, Berks (GM/Sel/Boys)	96	23.10
Chelmsford County High School for Girls (GM/Sel/Girls)	87	22.60
Colchester Royal Grammar School (GM/Sel/Boys)	187	22.10
King Edward VI Camp Hill School, W.Mids (GM/Sel/Boys)	81	22.10
Dr. Challoner's Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Boys)	129	22.10
Bournemouth School, Dorset (GM/Sel/Boys)	108	22.00
Royal Latin School, Buckingham (LEA, sel, mixed)	90	21.80
Woodford County High School, Essex (LEA/Sel/Girls)	75	21.70
Burnham Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Mix)	61	21.70
North Hallow Grammar School, W.Yorks (GM/Sel/Mix)	117	21.61
Folkestone School for Girls, Kent (GM/Sel/Girls)	75	21.50
Richmond School, N.Yorks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	117	21.50
Harrogate Grammar School (LEA/Comp/Mix)	123	21.50
Lancaster Royal Grammar School (GM/Sel/Boys)	117	21.50
Silverdale School, Sheffield (LEA/Comp/Mix)	99	21.50
Simon Langton Girls' School, Kent (LEA/Sel/Girls)	74	21.40
Roundwood Park, Herts (LEA/Comp/Mix)	149	21.30
Malvern School, Shropshire (LEA/Comp/Mix)	75	21.17
Burnham Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Mix)	137	21.10
Dr. Challoner's High School for Girls (GM/Sel/Girls)	70	20.87
King Edward VI Camp Hill School (GM/Sel)	48	20.80
Copthall Girls' School, London (LEA/Comp/Mix)	96	20.80
Wetherby High School, W.Yorks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	117	20.80
Sidinner's School, Tunbridge Wells (GM/Sel/Boys)	81	20.80
Westfield High School for Girls, Essex (GM/Sel/Boys)	117	20.80
John Hampden Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Boys)	81	20.80
Watford Grammar School for Boys, Watford (GM/Comp/Boys)	117	20.80
Kendrick School, Berks (LEA/Sel/Girls)	102	20.40
The Blue Coat School, Lincs (LEA/Comp/Mix)	123	20.30
Sutton Coldfield Girls' School (LEA/Sel/Girls)	84	20.06
St George's School, Herts (LEA/Comp/Mix)	80	20.04
King Edward VI College, Stourbridge (Col/Mix)	475	20.36
Wycombe High School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Boys)	129	20.36
Castle School, Thornbury, Glos (LEA/Comp/Mix)	77	20.20
Aylesbury High School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Girls)	194	20.03
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar (LEA/Sel/Girls)	97	20.00
St. Michael's Catholic Grammar, Kent (LEA/Sel/Boys)	72	20.00
Wallington County Grammar School, Surrey (GM/Comp/Boys)	68	19.91
The London Oratory School, London (GM/Comp/Mix)	133	19.86
Dame Alice Owen School, Herts (GM/Comp/Mix)	125	19.85
Wetherhampton Girls' High School (GM, sel)	24	19.85
Bishop Wordsworth's School, Wilts (GM/Comp/Boys)	76	19.74
Westcliff High School, Essex (GM/Comp/Boys)	110	19.70
Yapri Y. Presat, Paris (LEA/Comp/Mix)	82	19.70
Aylesbury Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Boys)	190	19.60
Lyndiswood High School, Powys (LEA/Comp/Mix)	20	19.40
Townly Grammar School for Girls, Kent (LEA/Sel/Girls)	84	19.27
Tiffin School, Surrey (GM/Comp/Boys)	132	19.20
Dartford Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Boys)	142	19.20
Ballyclare High Grammar School, Antrim (LEA/Sel/Mix)	129	19.20
St. William's Grammar School, Bucks (LEA/Sel/Mix)	127	19.20
Osney Park Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Boys)	51	19.20
Beaumont School, Herts (LEA/Comp/Mix)	41	19.00
Simon Langton Boys' Grammar School, Kent (GM/Sel/Boys)	82	19.00
St. Mary's RC Grammar School, Derby (GM/Comp/Mix)	91	18.90
Malvern Girls' Grammar, Kent (LEA/Sel/Girls)	158	18.80
St. Bernard's School, Berks (LEA/Sel/Mix)	109	18.75
Greenhead College, Huddersfield (Comp/Mix)	450	18.71
Dartford Grammar School for Girls (GM, sel)	93	18.70
Sutton Walden County High School (GM/Comp/Mix)	74	18.60
Northallerton College, N.Yorks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	105	18.60
King David High School, Lincs (LEA/Comp/Mix)	36	18.50
Richmansworth School, Herts (GM/Comp/Mix)	72	18.50
Westward and Sealord High School (GM/Sel/Girls)	51	18.50
Peristone Grammar School, N.Yorks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	103	18.50
Allerton High School, W.Yorks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	64	18.50
Guldford County School, Surrey (GM/Comp/Mix)	50	18.41
Peristone Grammar School, N.Yorks (GM/Sel/Girls)	115	18.30
Altrincham Grammar School for Boys (GM/Sel/Boys)	83	18.30
Bessaleigh Comprehensive, Newport (LEA/Comp/Mix)	108	18.20
Calder Grammar School, Lincs (GM/Sel/Mix)	41	18.20
Fullbrook High School, Chesh (LEA/Comp/Mix)	61	18.20
Irtham Grammar School, Kent (LEA/Sel/Girls)	83	18.20
Geoffrey High School, Tyne & Wear (LEA/Mix)	108	18.10
Five Ways School, Birmingham (GM/Sel/Boys)	98	18.08
South Wills Grammar School, Wills (GM/Sel/Girls)	104	18.05
Jewell's Free School, Cambs (GM, comp, mixed)	111	18.04
The Piggott School, Berks (LEA/Comp/Mix)	51	18.00

Compiled by Christina Asse-Owusu, Chris Broadhurst, Paul Croughan and Claudia Parsons

Independence day in the great lottery of life

If an alien life-form slightly more alert than the recently discovered Martian smudge had found itself in Latimer Upper School in west London yesterday morning, he might have wondered if Earthlings were so advanced that the communists had been lulled in some weird alphabetical binary shorthand.

"AAB" squeals one boy, waving a flap of paper and beaming. "ABB" replies another paper-waver, grasping the situation at a stroke. "BBB" snaps a third. And then they tug, leaving the onlooking masters who had nursed them to these A-level triumphs with a mixture of pride and surprise. "They don't usually go in for such un-macho behaviour," one teacher says.

Even the boom in our Lottery scratchcard culture, where the hunt for the right three numbers or letters has become as commonplace as breathing, cannot prepare the boys of this independent day-school for today's educational guillotine. Either they have got the grades they need for their university place, or they have not. In the world of A-levels, there are no bonus balls to help you.

"I'm still shaking with excitement," says Jonathan Chammis after opening his envelope to discover an ABB in maths, chemistry and biology and a smooth path to Bristol University. "I completely forgot about it until last night. Then I couldn't sleep. It's better than my sister got, which is the important thing."

The parquet-floored schoolroom, hung with photos of old boys Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman on the school stage



Making the grade meant looking for a winning line more important than any scratchcard. Joe Joseph watched pupils collect

in tight and panstick, fills with results-seekers whose anxiety wilted so dramatically once they opened their envelope that they slipped them a shot of Valium at the same time.

And nowadays Ma and Pa need not wait for the callbox to fall vacant. Pupils bring mobile telephones to relay news of their brilliance or the examiners' idiosyncrasy.

Tom Barnes has landed an A, two Bs and an S level, enough to secure his English place at Warwick. "AAB was what I was hoping for, though not necessarily expecting." So, were A levels as easy as everyone keeps saying?

"I think it's very easy," he says. "To do really badly in them."

studying French and German at Oxford.

"Two of our friends have done really badly," says Barnes. "One of them had girl trouble just before exams. The other was a bit of surprise."

But this alphabetical shorthand does not always translate simply. Leo Monzon has got three As, but still no place anywhere to study medicine. So he's off to Paraguay to teach English, after applying to fresh batch of universities. Which may be why Colin Digby, Latimer's head, is thrilled with the flashier grades his pupils have landed, but not dazzled by them: "I've got one boy here who got two Ds and an E and he's the happiest boy in the school. He's going to Oxford Brookes to study engineering. That's exactly what he wants to do."

Let's not sorry for the candidates' heads, all this nonsense about exams getting easier. What is scandalous is that the pass rate was so low many years ago. I used to be a chief examiner. The higher grades certainly haven't become any easier.

As leavers take their last schoolboy look around before heading off for their first celebration pint, Chris Chivers, Head of Sixth, says: "I think students — and teachers — just work a great deal harder than they used to. The grades are well deserved." In the trade, that's a textbook answer grade A.

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Duel at breakfast time as Kellogg's threaten Tesco



TONY WHITE

COMPETITION between brand-name manufacturers and own-label retailers cracked again yesterday when Kellogg's ordered Tesco to change three "copycat" packets or face the threat of legal action. The demand follows the launch of a nationwide press and poster campaign with the slogan: "If you don't see the Kellogg's name on the box, it isn't Kellogg's in the box."

However, Tesco is refusing to change the design of its own-label versions of Corn Flakes, Frosties and Honey Nut Corn Flakes. The supermarket chain said: "We dispute that the packaging is similar."

There is a lot at stake in Britain's multimillion breakfast cereal market. A spokesman for Kellogg's said: "It is flustering that Tesco is trying to minimize our products, because Kellogg's is the standard." Kellogg's prefers to resolve issues out of court, but should settlement not be found both Kellogg's and Tesco are signatories to a recent initiative on the resolution of lookalike products. Kellogg's position with regard to legal proceedings is reserved."

At *The Times*, Robin Young took the issue beyond the packaging, to discover if the rival brands were distinguishable in the bowl.



Young in action: the Editor's decision was final

WHO can tell Kellogg's corn flakes from Tesco's? Not many people, a blind taste test proved yesterday in the offices of *The Times*. By the simple expedient of setting up a corn-flake version of Find the Lady, quickly established that when it comes to the crunch, most people find the rivals indistinguishable without even looking at the boxes. Two samples of Tesco flakes were set up alongside a single sample of Kellogg's. Dry flakes and bowls with added milk were provided for each of the samples, which were la-

belled anonymously as A, B and C. Added sugar was not allowed because uneven quantities might have destroyed the scientific basis of the experiment. Then it was a simple question of find the odd one out, or: "Which is the Kellogg's?"

There was an early rush for sample A, declared the odd one out by the first five to accept the challenge. Among the early enthusiasts for A was Tom Price, chief copytaster for our home news pages, who describes himself as a serial cereal buyer, purchasing 16

cartons a month for his family. He said Kellogg's was the one thing on which no family should economise. Alas, his identification was wrong.

Then Nadine Felix, 16-year-old daughter of a foreign-desk colleague, said she thought C was the odd one out, though she preferred A. There followed a flurry of votes for C.

B got its first mention only when the twelfth taster, Harvey Elliott, our air and travel correspondent, said that on appearance B looked distinctively different. On taste, though, he admitted that all

three seemed alike to him. Another eight tasters voted for A or C before the Editor came by on his way to the editorial conference. Taking a single dry flake from each bowl in turn, he subjected them to a sharp nip.

"B is the odd one out," he pronounced. "B is Kellogg's." And as luck — or discriminant palate — would have it, he

was absolutely right. Subsequently, four more staff made the correct identification. The final tally was 24 votes for A, 18 for C, and only 5 for the correct answer, B.

On a wider overview, I attempted an appreciation of nine samples, ranging from Kellogg's to the cheapest brand we could find, No Frills from Kwik-Save.

THE CORN FLAKE TEST

Brand	Appearance	Texture	In milk	Flavour	Mark/20
Kwik Save	large, palid	good crunch	floppy	nutty	5
Sawley Savers	light yellow	bubbly	absorbent	crispbread	6
Sainsbury's	gross, sandy	dull, friilly	soggy	missing	3
Island	mixed colour	average	collapsed	neutral	4
Asda	orange pale blots	skin to Tesco	soon drowned	pleasant	8
Sawley	orange, blistered	light	short-lived	cooked	10
Sainsbury's	vivid orange	crinkly	residual crunch	toasty	13
Tesco	orange, dotted	febrile	second best	moreish	15
Kellogg's	neat, bouncy	extra crunchy	best	attractive	19



The rival packets: Britain is the world runner-up

The £903m story behind big names in daily cereal

BY DES BURKINSHAW

THE British breakfast cereal market is worth £903 million a year. Only Ireland consumes more cereals per head.

The allegations of lookalike packaging could become the first to go to mediation through the Institute of Grocery Distribution's code of practice. It was introduced as a result of the Government's refusal in 1994 to outlaw copycat packaging, despite lobbying from manufacturers.

Tesco attracted criticism in 1994 when it launched its Unbelievable spread, which Unilever claimed resembled its I Can't Believe It's Not Butter packaging. Procter and Gamble claimed Tesco had copied its Fairy Liquid washing-up bottle. In 1994, Coca-Cola forced Sainsbury to change the design of its Classic Cola drink, which borrowed heavily from the classic red and white Coke logo.

John Noble, director of the non-profit making British Brand Group, said: "The IGD code of practice was introduced less than a year ago to help trading partners to negotiate a settlement. Both Tesco and Kellogg's have signed that code, which says they should encourage competition but avoid commercial plagiarism. If discussions fail, it will only leave the heavy guns of litigation."

All the big superstore chains marketing own-label brands

insist that their products taste as good as the leading brands, but at a fraction of the cost. A 750 gram packet of Tesco corn flakes is currently on special offer at 99¢ compared to Kellogg's at £1.49. Safeway offers a standard 500g packet for 89p and a Savers packet for 49p.

Corn flakes developed from the pioneering health-food work of the Kellogg brothers, Will Keith and Dr John Harvey. Will Keith Kellogg began producing ready-to-eat cereals at the end of the last century while working at The Seventh Day Adventist hospital and health spa, Battle Creek Sanitarium, in Michigan. Wheat flakes were developed first; corn flakes came almost by accident.

A leading nutritionist, Amanda Ursell, said yesterday that corn flakes were an important source of nutrients and vitamins for women and schoolchildren. She said: "For women the iron and folic acid are particularly important, and studies have shown that schoolchildren who go without breakfast cereals are unlikely to make up later in the day the quantities of B group vitamins which they miss."

All the corn flakes sampled contained iron, folic acid and B group vitamins. Savers and B group vitamins. Two brands of the supermarket own-brands had rather more vitamins and iron than Kellogg's.

Late bookers face holiday price rise

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

LATE-BOOKING holiday-makers are facing surcharges of up to £30 as travel companies move to eliminate last-minute bargains.

Airtours, Britain's second biggest tour operator, told travel agents yesterday to increase prices immediately on any unsold summer holidays by £20 to £30. For example, a family of four buying a two-week package in Playa de Las Américas in Tenerife will pay £1,231.72 compared with the brochure price of £1,151.72.

Richard Carrick, Airtours' marketing director, blamed "supply and demand: "We warned that there would not be enough holidays to go

round and those who waited will now have to pay a price premium."

Some rivals said the move might breach European consumer protection laws. But Airtours is convinced that by asking travel agents to remove its brochures from the shelves — except for one copy which can be used to calculate the surcharges — it has complied with the letter of the law.

The Association of British Travel Agents supported the view. A spokesman said: "Under the regulations the prices quoted in the brochures must be accurate. But by removing all the brochures and ensuring that no one can be misled we believe they have complied with the law."


The travel industry has been

CORRECTION

The Bishop of Stafford, the Right Rev Christopher Hill, did not say that the clergy might have to abandon inner

desperate to halt a move towards increasingly late booking which cost it tens of millions in discounts last year. Thomson has introduced "flexible pricing" under which booked holidays are offered at a discount and the airline pays

Mr Allen and his FEROCIOUS butterflies.




For years, Mr and Mrs Allen's Unique Tropical Butterfly Garden in Great Ellingham, Norfolk has been a mecca for lepidoptera and nature lovers alike. And although, surprisingly, no visitor has ever reported being maimed by a marauding Monarch, some upholder of officialdom decided that to 'protect the public' the gardens must be registered under the 1981 Zoo Licensing Act. It was register and conform or face closure.

Now, after receiving rigorous inspection which even covered the question of a 'firearms operative' (one assumes in case of the escape of a killer Lace Wing), Mr Allen is now officially a headzoo keeper.

In the light of such nonsense, you'll forgive us for a little trepidation. Because at Beck's, individuality, originality and uniqueness are qualities that the brewmasters of Bremen insist go into every bottle. And these are the very qualities that could be lost to creeping bureaucracy, mediocrity and regulation.

So, what if the same pedantry was applied to our beer? Questioning our unique glacial spring water. Curtailing our use of the very best Hallertau hops in favour of a regulation, 'department' approved variety. Put simply, your Beck's simply wouldn't be Beck's.

Well, don't get yourself into a flutter just yet. Because we will battle on, and we guarantee that Beck's will remain a protected 'species' forever.



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Shareholders: concert parties, to speak for 2/11 per cent.

Delays increased and investment cut in railways sell-off

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PASSENGERS are paying the price for the break-up of British Rail, according to an industry watchdog. It says more services are running late and much-needed investment in rolling stock and track is grinding to a halt.

Government promises as to the benefits of privatisation had yet to materialise as rail staff struggled to cope with the upheaval caused by the sell-off, the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee said yesterday. Lack of investment was particularly disappointing, with the West Coast Main Line causing the most concern. It was on this route, near Warford, that a train crashed last week, killing one passenger and injuring 46.

"The performance of the West Coast Main Line has begun to show alarming signs of deterioration in the absence of a start to the major upgrading needed," the committee's report for the year to the end of

March says. Complaints to the committee soared to a record 11,460 during the year, as *The Times* disclosed earlier this month, with late, overcrowded and dirty trains causing the most concern.

The new players have got to get their act together as there is too much on the railways that is not good enough," David Bertram, the committee's chairman, said. "There is virtually no investment and for passengers it's been another year of waiting — waiting for promises to be turned into real action."

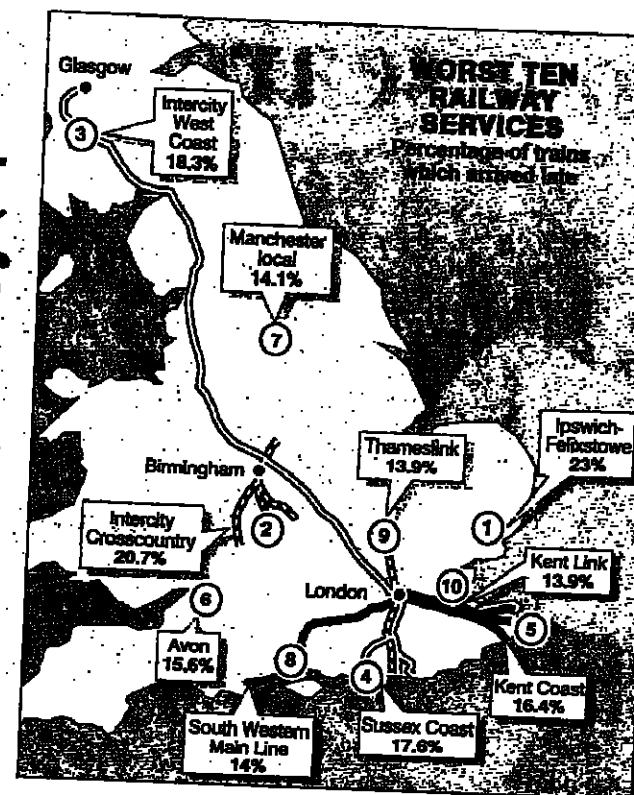
The rail industry remained in a state of suspended animation while the only visible signs of improvement were marginal changes such as free cups of coffee for passengers. The jury is still out on privatisation and likely to remain out for some time," he said.

Labour seized on the report as "a massive thumbs down"

from the public for privatisation. "This report paints a depressing picture of soaring complaints, higher fares and plummeting investment," Glenda Jackson, a transport spokeswoman, said. "This is a clear vote of no confidence to one of John Major's flagship policies."

Complaints about late trains increased by a third as 33 of the 59 major rail lines in Britain showed declines in punctuality during the period covered by the report. The worst deterioration was on the London to Glasgow InterCity West Coast Main Line, on which nearly 20 per cent of trains were more than 10 minutes late. Complaints about dirty and overheated trains soared by 78 per cent and about overcrowded trains by half.

The committee also expressed concern about increases in fares not capped by the Government, lack of com-



munication between rival operators and the disappointing failure of some private companies to replace ageing "slam door" trains.

The Government put a brave face on the committee's report, claiming that it was a vindication of privatisation. John Bowis, the Transport Minister, said: "In the period the report covers, the vast majority of services were still run by British Rail. That situation is now changing fast.

As more and more of the passenger train companies pass into private hands I expect the quality of service to continue to improve."

Mr Bertram listed some improvements to services since the start of the sale of passenger franchises in February, but said more promises needed to be turned into reality for "the worst fears of privatisation... to be demonstrated as groundless and scaremongering."

Wounds remain unhealed for Japan veterans

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE 51st anniversary yesterday of the end of the war with Japan was not a tidily rounded number, and the laying of wreaths at the Cenotaph in London was a short and simple act compared with the stage-managed pomp of last year's commemorations. But the old soldiers do not forget and the wounds do not heal.

About 400 former prisoners of war and civilian internees of the Japanese, many of them women, gathered in Whitehall to remember the conclusion of the Second World War, increased at what they see as continuing insults to their dead comrades and to the privations of those who survived.

There was widespread condemnation of Koichi Sugano, a former labour camp lieutenant, who tends a shrine in Tokyo to the



Wreaths were laid yesterday for the victims of the Japanese; the anger of the survivors is still acute

building of the infamous Burma railway, which claimed the lives of 16,000 Allied prisoners and at least 100,000 Asian labourers. Interviewed by *The Times* on Wednesday, Mr Sugano said that the Japanese had nothing to be ashamed of and that the prisoners had died in a good cause as the railway was still operating.

Bill Holtham, 75, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, said at the ceremony: "This man's comments are utterly disgraceful. I would like to meet him, not to shake his hand but to wring his neck for insulting our comrades' memory."

Charles Peall, 78, of the Burma Star Association,

added: "This man was a railway engineer and they were the worst and cruellest men I have ever met."

Veterans are equally dismayed at the apparent lack of progress in their campaign to win compensation from the Japanese. After the wreath-laying, veterans' leaders handed in a letter at Downing Street urging the Government to put pressure on Tokyo to agree compensation.

Another letter, handed in at the Japanese Embassy yesterday, says: "Japan is the only outstanding ex-member of the Axis powers not to have acknowledged her past misdeeds to the world at large and not to have paid reparation to its victims."

Earprint evidence to be used in court

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BURGLARY case due to come before a Lancashire court is set to make English legal history. It will be the first trial in which a print of the alleged thief's ear will be presented as proof that the defendant was at the scene.

Scientists have discovered that the shape of an ear is as individual as a fingerprint and they aim to build a library of "lug-shots". In the way that criminals' faces and fingerprints are filed, lecturers at the National Training Centre for Scientific Support to Criminal Investigation, at Crook, Co Durham, are teaching police to dust windows or doors for evidence that burglars have pressed their heads against them while gaining entry.

Dr Norman Weston, of the centre, said police in Holland and Switzerland already use prints as evidence. "Criminals will put their ear to a window or door in an attempt to find out if anyone is inside. That leaves an impression of the ear on the surface which can be detected in the same way we look for fingerprints by dusting with fine aluminium powder," he said.

"Often we find that after listening the criminal will move to another point in a house to gain entry. Crime examiners tend to concentrate their efforts at the entry point, but we are teaching them to look more widely for earprints."

Keith Fryer, deputy director at the centre, said a different method was used to taking fingerprints: "Ears are sufficiently waxy for us to press a piece of clear plastic against the side of the subject's head before dusting the film with aluminium powder to get the impression for our database."

Asylum bids rose after legal judgment

By RICHARD FORD

APPLICATIONS for asylum almost doubled in the weeks after a court ruling led to the Government restoring welfare benefits to people seeking refuge in Britain.

According to government figures published yesterday, applications for asylum by people who had arrived in the country for another reason rose from 920 in June to 1,700 in July, having fallen by a third earlier in the year.

Ministers believe the sudden surge was triggered by an Appeal Court ruling at the end of June that reinstated benefits, including housing benefit and income support, to asylum seekers. The Court ruled that Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, had exceeded his powers when he introduced changes designed to save £200 million a year. Lord Justice Simon Brown said the withdrawal of benefits could cause destitution among asylum seekers which no civilised state could tolerate.

The Commons reinstated the curbs at the end of July, but the Home Office believed that hundreds of people took advantage of the few weeks between the court ruling and Commons decision.

Timothy Kirkhope, the Immigration Minister, said the increase in applications undermined the Government's claim that the availability of benefits encouraged people already in Britain as visitors, for instance, to seek asylum.

Immigration figures for 1995 show that 43,965 people applied for asylum, with the number from Poland increasing from 360 in 1994 to 1,210. The dramatic increase raised concern that groups in Poland were targeting the UK as a "soft option".

Cure hope for bug that struck Darwin

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

RESEARCHERS have found a drug to tackle a disease which affects 18 million people in Latin America and may have been caught by Charles Darwin.

Chagas' disease is a parasitic illness spread by bloodsucking bugs rather like bedbugs. The parasite causes an acute flu-like illness, but then disappears, lurking in the body for years.

The disease can affect the heart, gut or intestine, causing death up to 30 years after infection. But in the chronic form which experts believe Darwin contracted aboard the *Beagle*, the symptoms include fatigue, shortness of breath, and digestive problems. Darwin's diaries are full of references to his ill-health, such as "stomach greatly disordered" and "smallest exertion most irksome".

It appears to have developed two years after his return, when he was 30. He wrote later that on most days he felt "great prostration of health". In *Science*, a team of scientists led by a Venezuelan and including Dr John Hargrett-

ases, say a new anti-fungal drug called D870, originally synthesised by ICI, proved effective against the parasite in mice.

Mice were infected with a large dose of a strain of the disease that, if untreated, would kill them within three weeks. Next day they were given D870, which proved to be 30 to 50 times more effective than existing drugs.

They then tested the treated mice to detect the presence of the parasite, and found that in 60 per cent it had been destroyed. They also infected mice with lower doses of another strain of the parasite. The new drug increased survival and eliminated infection in 90 per cent.

Chris Dalton of Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, says the compound was developed as an anti-fungal, for treating thrush. Dr Ryley said it was far too early to say whether the drug would prove safe and effective in humans. It was his idea to test the drug against Chagas' disease. "It is significant that the experiments have

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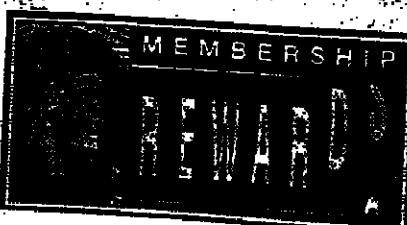


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Lincoln became a place where retired legionaries might spend their days after military service

The fortress that was left to its own peaceful resources

By ALAN HAMILTON

PROUD Lincoln, on its airy limestone ridge, is the perfect demonstration that in a large part of England the Roman military occupation was brief, and that the peaceful civilian colonisation lasted far longer.

In the earliest years of conquest the IX Legion Hispana, pushing up the east of the country, struck a temporary camp on the banks of the River Witham, on the site of an Iron Age settlement known to the locals as Lindum, the place by the pool. The new arrivals Latinised it as Lindum, and we now know it as Lincoln.

Evidence suggests that the legion had barely settled in when it was called south again to deal with the rebellion of Boudicca and her Iceni tribe. The legion was all but wiped out, only a few straggling survivors making it back to base.

Startled by the degree of opposition from the flatlands of Norfolk, the Romans built a bigger and better-defended fort at Lindum, with walls of stone, covering 41 acres. But then the source of anti-imperial trouble moved north, to the wild Brigantes of northern England and Scotland, and the legion was moved to a



new headquarters at York in about AD 71. It was replaced by the II Legion Adiutrix, recruited from what is now Croatia. It had been in Lincoln barely five minutes when it was moved to deal with the troublesome Welsh. From about AD 78, Lincoln became a civilian town.

Within a very few years it had been given the high status of a *colonia*, a town where retired legionaries might spend their days in peace after military service. There were three others in Britain: Colchester, Gloucester and York, free boroughs running their own affairs. The modern equivalent would be Lincoln City Council, with the Royal British Legion the majority party in the town hall.

Lincoln stood astride Ermine Street, the Roman M1 running from London to York. It entered the city at the

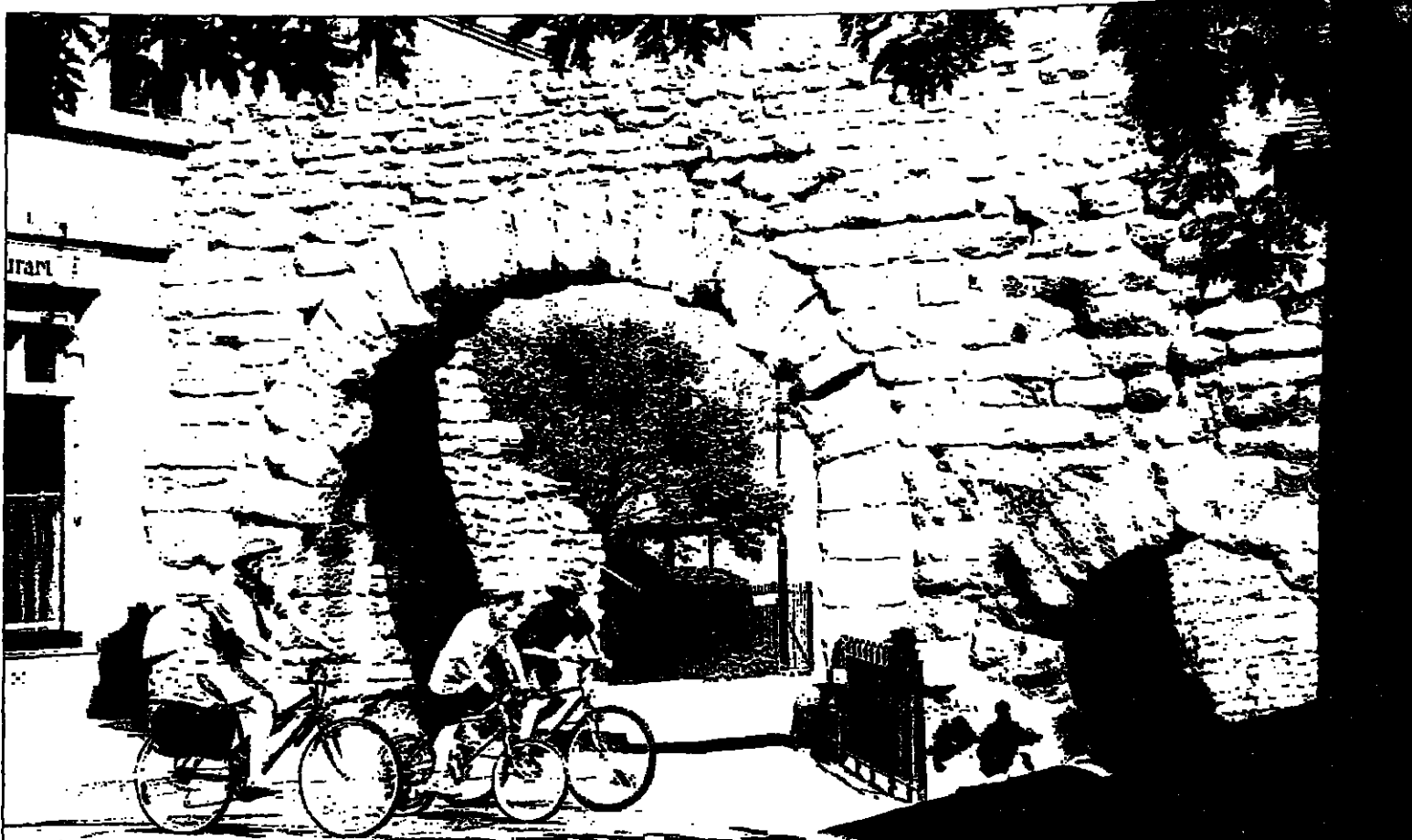
junction of present-day High Street and Guildhall Street, and left it again at the Newport Arch. Much remains of the city defences, with large segments of wall and substantial remnants of gateways intact, but we know little of the city within.

Excavation suggests two cities, an upper and a lower, probably connected by a grand arrangement of stairs and ramps as monumental as anything in the empire north of the Alps, in the region of today's Steep Hill. The few archaeological remains suggest a prosperous, bustling and elegant town, as cosmopolitan as all the other main Roman settlements in Britain. Fragments of mosaic pavement and sewers indicate a considerable degree of civilisation and hygiene within the 97 walled acres.

At the height of its development, Roman Lincoln had a population of about 5,000, making it a substantial metropolis in a country which, in the early Christian era, had four million inhabitants at the most. It was a road junction, where the Fosse Way met Ermine Street, and a port, linked by a dyke to the River Trent and the North Sea.

And, like all Roman cities, it was cosmopolitan. Surviving tombstones in the museum — sadly closed for an indefinite period — record legionaries and civilians who started life in Gaul, Greece, Spain, Macedonia and even Hungary. It is a reminder that Romans were not necessarily from Rome — indeed very few who reached Britain were Italians — and that a Roman meant a citizen of the Roman empire, which stretched from Carlisle to Damascus, Spain to the Rhine.

But even as a southern European, you could regard the windy flatlands of Lincolnshire as almost bearable when coupled with the familiarities of the Latin language, a bath house, flush lavatories and fish sauce.



Newport Arch, in Lincoln's outer wall, marked the point where Ermine Street headed north to York. It was damaged by a lorry in 1964

Archway survives ravages of time

LINCOLN displays the only complete Roman arch surviving in Britain and still used by traffic (Alan Hamilton writes). But the traffic very nearly caused its downfall in 1964 when a lorry partly demolished it. It has since been rebuilt.

Substantial remnants of the gateways and walls of the upper city can be seen within easy walking distance of the cathedral, in the forecourt of the Eastgate Hotel and the adjacent car park.

The narrow lane of East Bight nearby takes you to the Newport Arch, where Ermine Street left the defences of Lincoln, heading for York. The streets of Bailegate and High Street follow the line of Ermine Street. Turn off Bailegate along Westgate to the Castle Hotel and in the alley of West Bight alongside the Mint Wall, a large

surviving fragment, 66ft long and 18ft high, and assumed to have been the rear wall of the Basilica, the city hall of Roman Lincoln. In Bailegate, granite blocks in the road mark the front of the Basilica.

Across Westgate from the Castle Hotel, in a landscaped area, is a well-preserved (although undoubtedly rebuilt) tiled Roman wellhead. In the cathedral, under a stairway at the northeastern corner of the cloisters, is a fragment of Roman pavement.

Of the buildings within the lower city little is known, but a large section of its wall and vestige are exposed in the forecourt of the city council offices in Orchard Street. There is a good display of Roman coins in the Usher Art Gallery in Broadgate (Mon-Sat 10.30, Sun 2.30-5, admission £1, Fridays free).

Beaten Iceni were herded into Norfolk new town

BOUDICCA'S revolt against Rome was to cost the warrior queen of the Iceni her life, and her people their freedom (Bill Frost writes). Such was the conquerors' fury that, once the rag-tag army was cornered, every man, camp follower and packhorse was put to the sword.

Those who remained in their East Anglian homeland during the revolt in AD 60-61 lost all will to fight on when they heard of the queen's death. The Iceni were to face compulsory "civilisation" in the new town of Caistor St Edmund, *Venta Icenorum*.

The settlement, three miles south of Norwich, was built on the east bank of the Tas and, in its early stages, appears to have been made up of very humble huts. There would also have been a substantial Roman garrison. However, by the 2nd century,

the Iceni no longer represented a threat. A stone forum and basilica with colonnade were built and public baths were opened. Roman homes replaced huts and there is evidence of a pottery industry. Later, probably during the pirate raids of the 3rd century, walls went up around the town.

They were made of concrete, faced with flint and brick. The area inside is only about 34 acres, indicating that *Venta Icenorum* was among the smallest tribal capitals.

Today the visitor can see the formidable ditch and earth ramparts, which bound rich farmland and the church of St Edmund built from Roman stone.

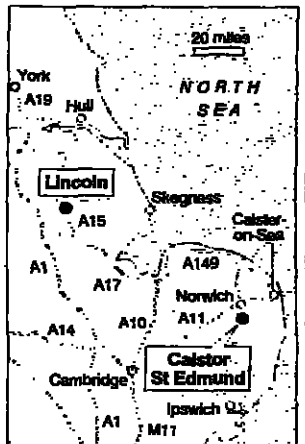
In the middle of the 4th century the town was dying after pirates had driven out all but the bravest. It is thought that a handful of

Romano-British legionaries and mercenaries remained and that their bodies may be buried in a cemetery south of the walls.

Any visit to the area should also include Caister-on-Sea three miles north of Yarmouth. Although inland now, the site was once a seaport ideally suited for trade with the Continent.

Originally protected by a timber palisade, a flint wall was to be built around Caister-on-Sea as pirate attacks grew. Beyond the southern gate are the remains of a large building thought to have been a seamen's hostel. The foundations are also visible of the town wall and its south gate to a harbour that long ago silted up.

Tomorrow: Cirencester, Roman women and food



Legionaries dispatched from Lincoln to deal with Boudicca in East Anglia were all but wiped out

Beggar mother died from natural causes

A BRITISH woman whose body was found in a squalid Greek room, with her nine-year-old son lying hungry and dirty beside her, died from natural causes, a coroner ruled yesterday.

Jane Heath, 37, died from pneumonia with liver cirrhosis as a contributory factor, the inquest at Yeovil was told. Her son, Eric, who had worn a placard saying "I'm English, please help" while begging with his mother, was brought back to

Britain to live with his grandparents. Miss Heath's body was found in February at Piracus, The East Somerset Coroner, Nicholas Rheinberg, said it appeared that she had died in "circumstances of tragic squalor".

After a post-mortem examination in Greece it was said that she had died from choking on her vomit. But a British pathologist, Dr Jonathan Sheffield, told the inquest that he disagreed with the

finding and was satisfied she had died from pneumonia.

She went to Greece in 1984 with her husband, Mike, but after they separated she became homeless and started begging. She died in the room of a Greek, tinker, who had taken her and Eric in 24 hours earlier.

Eric, whose father died last year, is living with his grandparents, Eric Heath, 74, and his wife, Carol, 60, in Somerset.

Glasgow prepares to lose its bottle

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TIME has been called on Glasgow's hard-drinking image. On Monday, it will become the first city in Britain with a total ban on consuming alcohol in public.

From then on, any real-life equivalents of television's Rab C. Neshitt — clutching a drink in the street and ready for a fight — face fines of up to £500. So will anyone who just wants to cool off with a beer in the city's George Square, or enjoy a beaker of Beaujolais on a picnic in Pollok Country Park.

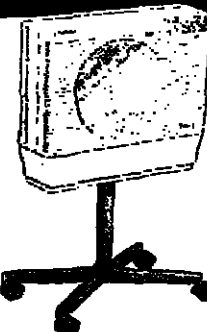
Glasgow police station already takes in up to 100 prisoners on alcohol-related offences each weekend. James Coleman, the city's licensing board chairman, said yesterday: "We face the same problems as any major town — people swagging down the streets, hanging around street corners, abusing alcohol in parks, or drinking outside football grounds."

"These bylaws are taking the streets, parks and public spaces back for the decent majority of people."

Glasgow's growing café-bar society and beer gardens will not be affected by the ban, which has the enthusiastic support of the pub trade. John MacLeod, manager of the town-centre Café Rouge, said: "I think it's a great idea, although, to be fair, I think Glasgow's been living with an out-of-date bad name."

"The place is much more cosmopolitan now. We've def-

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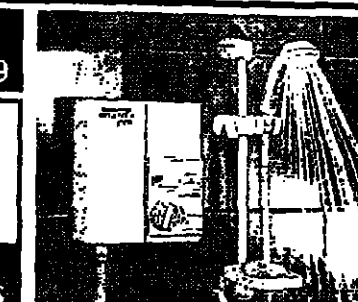
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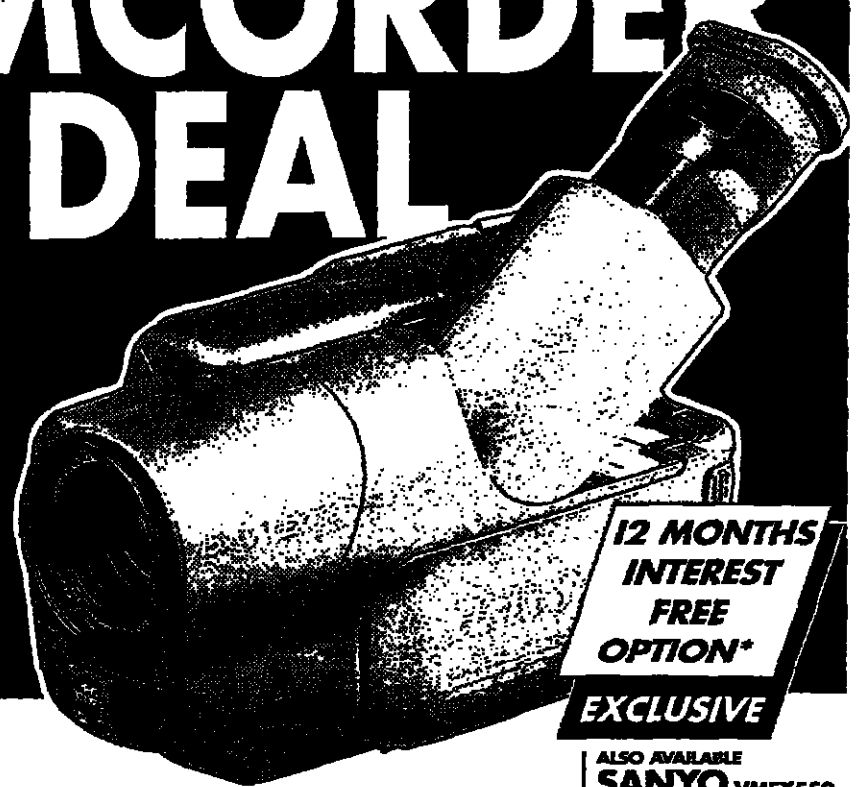
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Original sketches of much-loved Moggy fetch £26,000

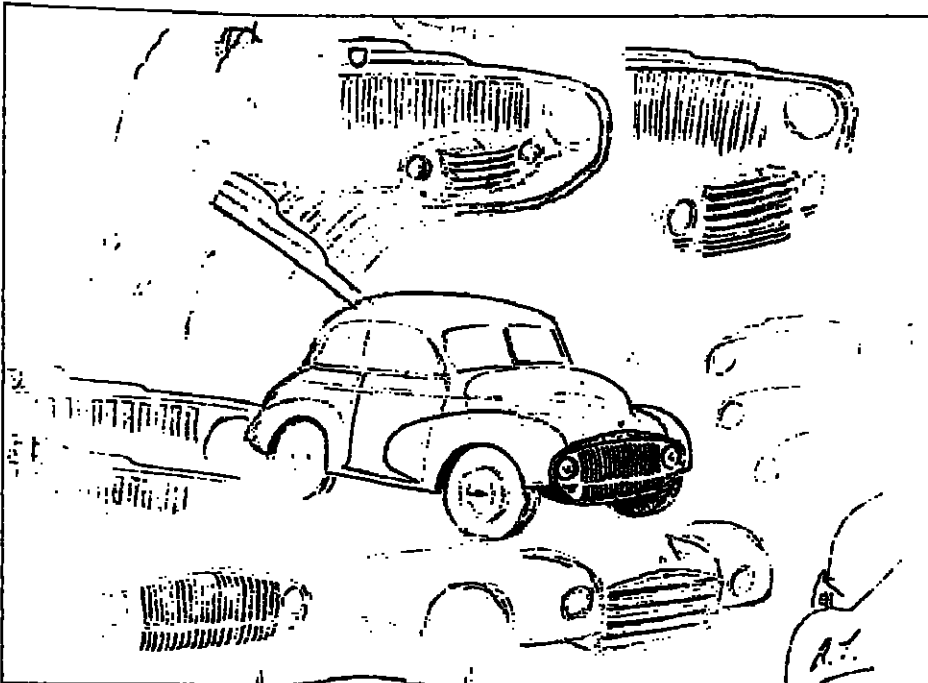
By JOHN VINCENT
AND PAUL WILKINSON

A WEALTHY businessman, who owns what he claims is the finest Morris Minor in the world, paid nearly £26,000 yesterday for the original drawings of the classic car.

Keith Fletcher, 54, who recently turned down an offer of £30,000 for his maroon 1949 "lowlight" convertible, paid nearly 26 times the estimate of £1,000 for the sketches by its designer, Sir Alec Issigonis. He said after fierce bidding at Christie's: "I would have paid half a million if I'd had to."

The sketches for Britain's first people's car of the post-war years, at first dismissed as resembling "a poached egg" by the motor magnate Lord Nuffield, surfaced recently, together with Issigonis's sketches for a later triumph, the Mini, which fetched just £2,530.

Mr Fletcher, from Earlsdon, Coventry, a managing director of several companies, said that his fascination with the Minor began in 1966 when he found one for his aunt. He inherited the car from her 20 years later, joined the Morris Minor Club, and bought the convertible, called



Issigonis designed the Morris Minor as a tough, good-looking car for the masses; the Coventry Sociable is often credited as being the original "bicycle made for two"

a "lowlight" because of its low-slung lights.

"I have fully restored it and now I can say without any exaggeration it is probably the best Morris Minor in the world. A collector in Australia offered me £30,000. I told him it was not for sale at any

price." The Morris Minor, Britain's answer to the VW Beetle, was in production from 1948 to 1971 and earned the affectionate nickname "Moggy".

Issigonis designed it in answer to the call of Sir Stafford Cripps for a mass-

produced "cheap, tough good-looking car".

In another auction yesterday, the machine often credited with being the original "bicycle made for two" — even though it has four wheels — fetched a record price of £25,300 at Phillips' salerooms

in Retford, Nottinghamshire. The rare Victorian cycle, known as the Coventry Sociable, because of its side-by-side seats, had two large wheels on each side and a small wheel front and back.

Roger Street, its former owner, said he had often been

asked if the Coventry Sociable was the same bike featured in the music hall song *Daisy*, written in 1892 by Harry Dacre and made famous by Katie Lawrence, the music hall star. But Mr Street said: "Unfortunately, the current opinion is that the machine in

the song was a normal tandem because *Daisy* was written ten years after the last Coventry Sociable was made."

Aidan Hetherington of Phillips said: "We had expected it to sell for between £12,000 and £18,000."

Rail relics hit buffers

SIR William McAlpine, who keeps a full-size locomotive at the bottom of his garden, is to sell part of his celebrated railway collection to meet losses at Lloyd's (John Shaw writes).

More than 600 lots covering the railway age from the 1840s are expected to fetch about £100,000 at Bonhams in London next month. Sir William, a director of the family civil engineering firm, said yesterday: "This is the first time I've ever sold anything from the collection but I need to raise a little money."

He is retaining an 0-4-0 industrial locomotive that runs on a mile of track at his home in Oxfordshire. Sir William saved the 1913 Hudswell Clark engine from scrap after it had worked on McAlpine sites.

A feature of the auction on September 10 will be a painting of *The Flying Scotsman* on the Forth Bridge by Terence Cuneo, which, it is estimated, will fetch between £5,000 and £7,000.

Catholics set to ordain married Anglican clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CARDINAL Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, is to ordain married former Anglican clergy to the Roman Catholic priesthood at a mass ceremony later this year.

The ordinations come soon after Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the Italian archbishop tipped to be the next Pope, has stated that "celibacy is not necessarily linked to the priesthood". The service at Westminster Cathedral will be the first mass ceremony to ordain into the Catholic priesthood some of the dozens of married clergy who left the Church of England over the issue of women priests.

It will reopen the debate over whether a largely celibate Catholic clergy is still necessary at a time when there is a fast-developing crisis of vocations. Pressure on the Pope to soften his refusal to permit marriage to the greater part of the Catholic priesthood will certainly increase.

In November Cardinal Hume will ordain a large number of former Anglican clergy, currently serving as Catholic deacons, according to today's *Catholic Herald*. Several of the ordinands are married, although their names are not yet being disclosed by the Catholic Church. The unmarried Christopher Colven, a former Anglican clergyman, of St Stephen's, Gloucester Road, is one of those expected to be ordained.

The Right Rev Crispian Hollis, Bishop of Portsmouth,

who has three married former Anglican clergy working in his diocese, said the possibility that all Catholic priests might be allowed to marry was on the Church's "remote agenda" only.

"At the moment we are adjusting to a new situation which is the accepting of married former ministers from other denominations," he said. "I don't think anyone is thinking beyond that at the moment."

He said that the shortage of priests was being met by recruiting the laity to run parishes and administer communion. Retired priests were also brought in to help out. He was also considering the possibility that parishes could be merged, with one priest looking after two or three churches, as has already happened in the Church of England. "At the moment we are holding our own, but it is tighter than it used to be," he said.

Earlier this month, Cardinal Martini, Archbishop of Milan, said there was "no theoretical problem" preventing sexually active men from becoming Catholic clergy.

On a visit to Sydney, Cardinal Martini, 69, a Jesuit, said that "celibacy is not necessarily linked to the priesthood" and that the Church could "make some changes, some adaptations" to its present approach. However, he said that celibacy "should never be abolished or forgotten because it responds to a call of Jesus".

Homegrown apples bite back at rivals

WEEKEND SHOPPING

THE English apple season opens this weekend, a week later than last year because of the cold spring. Apples are Britain's most popular fruit, with nine million consumed each day.

Discovery, the early ripening variety now in the shops, is the best-known English eating apple after the Cox, but growers are concerned that young eaters know little of the different varieties. Many of them think, erroneously, that Granny Smith, Braeburn and Golden Delicious are British apples. Granny Smith originated in Australia and will not grow here because it requires a hot climate.

The Discovery crop will be on sale until mid-September, when the Coxes, expected to be better in size and quality than last year, come on stream.

Promotions include:

Asda: pork mince £1.99 for 454g, peppers £1.29 for four, open-cap mushrooms 75p for 375g, flavour-grown tomatoes 99p a punnet.

Budgens: fresh whole chicken £4.99 for 2.3kg, Lincolnshire pork sausages 99p for 454g, black seedless grapes 99p a lb, Galbani mozzarella cheese 69p for 125g.

Co-op: turkey escalopes £1.59 for two, premium smoked ham 99p for 115g, Bowyers

breast kebabs £2.69 each, spinach and feta cheese quiche £1.10 a slice, tandoori pie £2.09 for 100g, Galia melons 49p. Iceland: Cherry Valley Peking duck £3.99 for 360g, breaded scampi £1.99 for 400g, rainbow trout £2.99 for 800g, mandarin cheesecake £1.49 for 500g.

Marks & Spencer: smoked salmon pâté 99p, salmon fillets £8.99 for six, tree-ripe nectarines £1.49 for four, single cream £1.15 for 200g.

Morrisons: chicken Kiev £2.89 for four, whole salmon £1.79 a lb, shark loin £2.75 a lb, peaches 89p for ten.

Safeway: British rindless unsmoked back bacon £1.69 for 225g, swede 69p a lb, spring onions 32p a bunch, strawberries £1.49 for 340g.

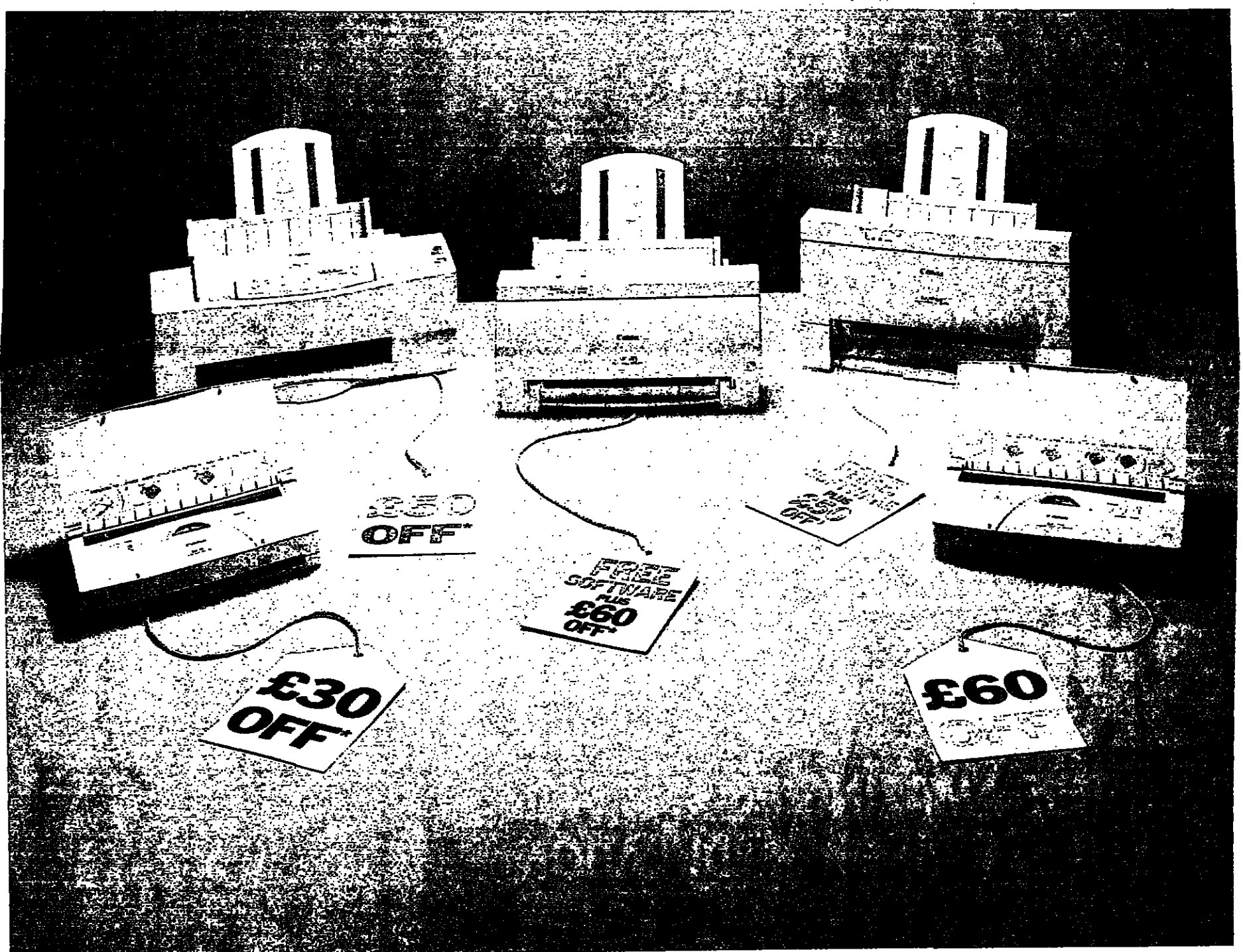
Sainsbury's: British lamb shoulder bone-in joint £2.49 a kg, tilapia £4.97 a kg, Charlotte potatoes £1.29 a kg, Granny Smith apples 48p a lb.

Somerfield: fresh pork loin steaks £4.73 a kg, cod fillet £1.63 a lb, courgettes 39p a lb, red seedless grapes 99p a lb.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.89 a kg, salmon steaks £2.95 a lb, runner beans 79p a lb, honey-dew melons 99p each.

Waitrose: boneless chicken breasts £3.49 for 530g, spinach 69p for 250g, Romaine lettuce 59p, luxury stem ginger ice-cream £2.99 for 500g.

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Ciller threatens to 'break hands' of Cypriot protesters

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MICHAEL EVANS

CYPRUS was bracing itself for another outbreak of violence as mourners gather for the funeral today of the Greek Cypriot killed by Turkish soldiers during clashes in the United Nations buffer zone on Wednesday.

UN peacekeeping troops, including 370 British soldiers, are on alert for the funeral of Solomos Solomou, who was shot as he tried to tear down a Turkish flag. British and UN diplomats tried to defuse the tension as the two British

soldiers wounded in the clashes on Wednesday recovered from their injuries in hospital. In language regarded in London as inflammatory, Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Foreign Minister and former Prime Minister, said Turks would "break the hands" of anyone who insulted their flag. Flying to Cyprus for a one-day visit, Mrs Ciller said: "Nobody lays a finger on the flag... if anyone has the nerve to do that, we will break their hands."

The Turkish Government called on members of the UN Security Council to bring pressure on Cyprus to stop Greek Cypriot demonstrations in the buffer zone. Yesterday, in Turkish-held northern Cyprus, two right-wing parties agreed to set up a coalition government, ending a seven-week political crisis, party officials said. Dervis Eroglu, the leader of the National Unity Party, will become Prime Minister in an administration formed with the Democratic Party of Serdar Denktash, the son of the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash.

Yesterday, a UN official accused the Greek Cypriot police and special forces of doing "virtually nothing" to stop Wednesday's clashes when protesters broke into the UN buffer zone after the funeral of a Greek Cypriot who was killed on Sunday.

Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, is due to arrive in Cyprus tomorrow. "The Prime Minister wants to make clear that any move by the Turks to the south will immediately mean war with Greece," a senior Greek government official said.

Mr Solomou's funeral was originally intended to be held tomorrow so that Mr Simitis could attend. However, diplomats believe it was brought forward and arranged to be held in the evening to reduce the risk of demonstrations. Despite the bellicose rhetoric from Ankara and Athens, Mrs Ciller and Mr Simitis were expected to urge restraint behind the scenes, diplomats in Nicosia said.

The two British soldiers wounded in a hail of bullets on Wednesday were named by Greek Cypriot police as Bombardier Neil Emery, 29, and Gunner Jeffrey Hudson, 22, both of 39 Regiment Royal Artillery.

Both underwent operations in the British military hospital at RAF Akrotiri in the south-west of the island. "Both are recovering well and are expected to make full recoveries," the Ministry of Defence said in Cyprus.

The ministry said that Bombardier Emery, who is married and comes from New-

castle upon Tyne, and Gunner Hudson, who is single and comes from Plymouth, were in good spirits.

Bombardier Emery received a ricochet wound in the forearm and Gunner Hudson was hit by a high-velocity round through the buttock and out through the hip. Speaking from his hospital bed, Gunner Hudson said he had not been afraid, but as soon as he had heard gunshots he hit the ground. He said: "We were forming a line to stop the

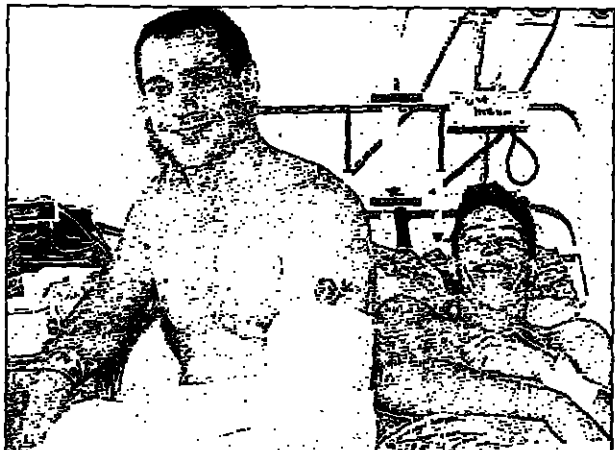
Greek Cypriots advancing. We heard the shots and hit the ground. It was then that I was shot. I knew I had been shot and it certainly hurt a lot."

In the meantime, some British holidaymakers in Cyprus were expressing concern about the clashes. One mother arrived at a British military base with her suitcase and three children, asking for protection. The British High Commission in Nicosia has received dozens of calls but tourists have been told not to

worry. However, callers are being advised to keep away from the buffer zone, particularly around Dherinia, and to follow events on the BBC World Service.

A new commander of the 30,000 Turkish troops in northern Cyprus arrived in the island yesterday to take up his post. General Ali Yalcin is due to replace General Hasan Kundakci at a ceremony tomorrow.

Leading article, page 17



Bombardier Neil Emery, left, and Gunner Jeffrey Hudson recover from their injuries yesterday



UN peacekeepers try during Wednesday's unrest to keep a Greek Cypriot demonstrator from rushing at the Turkish military post in the background

Pope undergoes hospital tests

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

CONCERN for the Pope's health rose yesterday after it was disclosed that he had been taken to hospital on Wednesday for medical checks while holidaying outside Rome.

The Vatican insisted that the health of the pontiff, 76, was "normal for a man of his age". The unscheduled hospital tests have thrown doubt, however, on his planned visits to Hungary and France next month. Some Vatican officials fear the French trip, in particular, will overtax the ailing pontiff because of planned protests by liberal Catholics outraged by his sternly conservative stance on birth control, his opposition to women

priests and the use of condoms to prevent Aids.

The Pope, troubled by recurrent intestinal disorders since Christmas, went on holiday in the Dolomites last month, observing that "the mountain air will do me more good than any doctor". He stayed for two weeks at Lorenzago di Cadore, where he had recuperated in 1992 after an operation to remove a tumour in the colon.

This month, the Pope transferred to his summer residence at Castelgandolfo, in the Alban Hills, to escape the summer heat of Rome. But on Tuesday he missed morning Mass, complaining of "stomach pains", and on Wednesday evening was taken to hospital at nearby Albano.

The hospital said the Pope left after an hour of tests, "in a jovial and tranquil mood". Father Ciro Benedettini, the deputy Vatican spokesman, said: "The tests did not show anything noteworthy."

The Vatican had clearly intended that the hospital visit be kept secret. However, the papal entourage was spotted by local people at the hospital.

Yesterday, the Pope appeared as usual at the balcony of Castelgandolfo to lead prayers. Although he offered greetings to pilgrims in seven languages, he appeared tired, and moved stiffly.



The Pope leads pilgrims in prayers yesterday

French holiday snaps ... piranhas

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THERE is a nasty nip in the waters of a southern French holiday spot. The Lac de la Ganguise, popular with swimmers and windsurfers, has been found to be sheltering at least two piranhas.

The first of the predatory South American fish to be landed from the lake near Castelnau-d'Aud, 30 miles southeast of Toulouse, was caught after a considerable struggle by a holidaymaker. According to witnesses, it measured an impressive 14in and sported an equally impressive set of teeth.

A second, larger specimen was caught a few days later by

Jean-Marc Simon, a local fisherman, who first spotted the fish near the surface. "I put some live bait on my hook. Five minutes later I brought up this thing," M Simon said. The "thing" in question turned out to be another piranha, this time measuring 18in.

The second catch prompted an investigation as gendarmes and fish experts went to the scene. The piranha was measured, sketched and captured on film before being sent to the Natural History Museum in Paris for tests. This is not the first time piranha have been found in France. In 1991 two piranhas were caught in the Garonne. *Serrasalminus nattereri* is a

gregarious creature. It can grow to more than 19in long and live for eight years. In France the fish cost between 50 and 100 francs (£6.35 and £12.70) and are a popular choice for collectors of tropical fish, on condition that they are kept in isolation because of their natural tendency to eat the rest of the tank.

In their natural habitat, the creatures are not vicious. However, if they are forced into smaller lakes in a drought, they can become extremely predatory, even turning to cannibalism. Piranhas will also attack people. Attracted by the smell of blood, a shoal in a feeding frenzy can strip a body bare of flesh in minutes.

The local authorities say that they believe the fish were released into the lake from a local aquarium. "Bathers can continue swimming. Piranhas are dangerous only in shoals," a local official said this week. "In any case, these probably belong to the family of piranhas which are purely vegetarian."

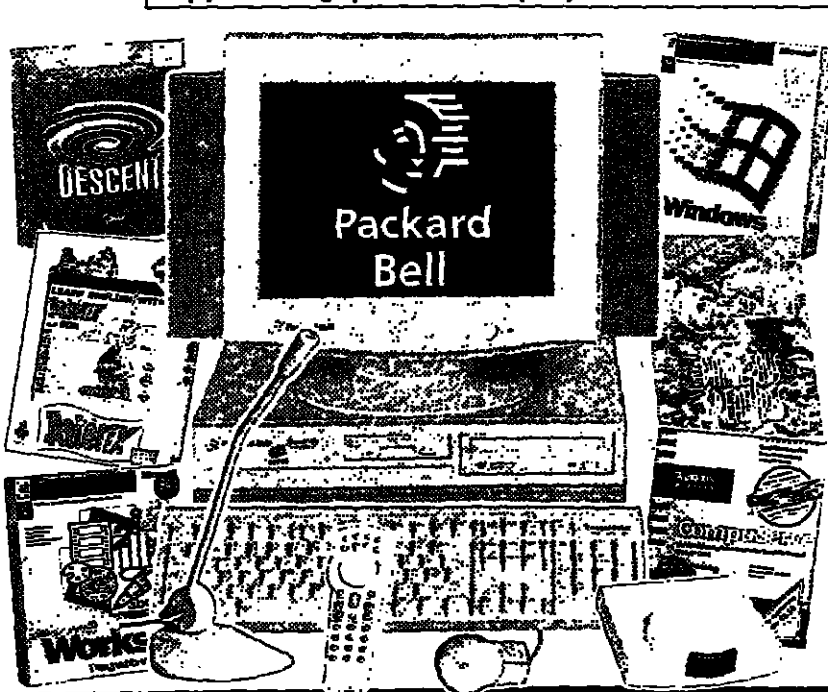
Whether the two piranhas caught in Castelnau-d'Aud indeed belong to the vegetarian branch of the family or to their flesh-eating cousins will not be known until the test results come back from the Natural History Museum.

Bathers may have grown wary, but fishermen dreaming of the catch of a lifetime are turning up in droves.

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Elizabeth leaves them wondering if they've chosen the right Dole

On the night her husband was formally nominated as the Republican presidential candidate, Elizabeth Dole brilliantly completed the week-long transformation of her party's convention into a television show, and of the delegates into a studio audience.

Breaking all precedent, the former Cabinet Secretary and Red Cross boss not only chose to introduce her husband to millions of television viewers, but did so in a manner that must have left Hillary Clinton wondering how she could top such a performance. Robin Dole, 41, Mr. Dole's daughter from his first marriage,

SAN DIEGO NOTEBOOK

warned the convention up with a saccharine speech about how her wonderful Dad used to take her on rollercoaster rides (nowadays they are of the political variety) and got her tickets to a Beatles concert (presumably by pulling strings).

Mrs. Dole then strode on to the stage to a tumultuous reception, but instead of stopping at the podium she descended into the midst of the rabble on the floor where she launched into a cross between the Oprah Winfrey show and *This Is Your Life*.

It was time to tell the world about the true Bob Dole and "the man I love", she said in her beguiling Southern accent. Carrying a cordless microphone, she wandered the floor in a peach-coloured suit introducing a nurse who helped her husband to recover from his war wounds, the widow of the surgeon who helped to repair his shattered shoulder, a quadriplegic who inspired him to establish the Bob Dole Foundation for the disabled.

She told of her husband's private support for a Washington

homeless shelter, of how he hired a fancy restaurant for 35 poor black kids one Thanksgiving Day, and how Senate employees had twice voted him the friendliest senator. She recalled how, before they married, he had felt duty-bound to show his future in-laws the true extent of his heavily disguised war injuries. "Mom said, 'Bob, that's not a problem. It's a badge of honour'."

It was a flawless, riveting performance interrupted at one point by giant video pictures of Mr. Dole watching and waving at his wife from his hotel room. When she finished after 15 minutes, the convention erupted and delegates

were left wondering whether it was the right Dole they were about to nominate.

How minutely scripted is this convention? Reporters were given advance copies of Robin Dole's speech, which began with a little joke about how she suspected her father might accept his party's nomination. Unfortunately, someone forgot to remove the stage instruction that followed: "Smile!"

The irony of this made-for-television convention is that it is all for the benefit of a candidate who loathes the slickness and packaging of modern political

campaigns. One of Mr. Dole's more endearing traits is that he occasionally rebels. The other night, as he was being hustled out of his hotel through a back door, he spotted a room-service waiter on the telephone. He eluded his handlers, shook the waiter's hand and asked who he was speaking to. "My sister, Kim," the waiter replied. "Kim, how you doing?" Mr. Dole bellowed down the phone. "This is Bob Dole."

Tony Blair's favourite American journalist landed himself in hot water by cracking a joke about Mr. Dole at a convention bar. "There's still

time. Maybe he can expire before the nomination and save the party," said Sidney Blumenthal, who wrote an effusive profile of the Labour leader for the *New Yorker* magazine and hosted a party for him when he visited Washington last April. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, a delegate reported what he took to be a death threat to the police. Nine Secret Service agents arrived and questioned Mr. Blumenthal for 45 minutes. Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist, finally took pity on his friend and brought him out a gin and tonic.

MARTIN FLETCHER

Scriptwriter resigns as leader's final act nears

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN SAN DIEGO

BOB DOLE was formally accepting the Republican presidential nomination last night, but preparations for what was widely viewed as the biggest speech of his life were upset when his most inspirational speechwriter walked out in anger.

Mark Helprin, a novelist, flew back to New York after his original draft was mangled by constant re-editing that continued as late as yesterday. It was Mr. Helprin who crafted the only memorable speech of Mr. Dole's campaign to date, the one with which he announced his resignation from the Senate in May.

Mr. Dole was formally nominated for the role he first sought 16 years ago amid tumultuous scenes on the convention floor on Wednesday evening. Last night's acceptance speech represented his last, best chance of selling himself to tens of millions of sceptical Americans watching on television, but whether Mr. Dole, a notoriously poor speaker, could rise to the occasion was a matter of intense speculation. The last time he addressed the nation was after President Clinton's State of the Union speech in



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION '96

January and his performance was universally described as awful.

Mr. Helprin delivered the first draft on April 22. Mr. Dole had tinkered with the text since early last month, trying to adapt its high-flown rhetoric to his more prosaic style, but on Tuesday night he reportedly tossed the text aside and angrily demanded that a big section be rewritten. Two of Mr. Dole's old Senate speechwriters were flown in and the next day Mr. Helprin quit.

Pasta party for nominee

Castel d'Aiano, Italy: This mountain town where Bob Dole was wounded in the Second World War was cooking up lots of pasta yesterday to celebrate the US presidential nomination for its honorary citizen. A Dixie-

land band was hired to play at the party. Pietro Tondi, the restaurant owner, said he was cooking up a "tonne of pasta" for the party here, 25 miles outside of Bologna. Mr. Dole has visited Castel d'Aiano seven times. (AP)

Apart from the content, Mr. Dole had used a speech coach and spent almost 20 hours practising his delivery before arriving in San Diego last Sunday. Since then he had rehearsed almost daily in his suite at the Hyatt Regency hotel and a friend's private home further up the coast.

Speaking before Mr. Dole last night was Jack Kemp, Mr. Dole's relatively eloquent new running-mate, who was reportedly instructed to tune down his speech accepting the vice-presidential nomination lest he upstage Mr. Dole.

Mr. Dole was given a tremendous build-up during Wednesday night's nomination process, though speakers were careful to keep expectations for last night low through constant references to their candidate's natural taciturnity.

He was praised for his courage, strength and integrity by Olympic gold medal

winners, a former Miss America and a Vietnam War hero whose legs had been shattered by a landmine.

More theatrics followed. Mr. Dole's nomination was proposed by Senator John McCain of Arizona who momentarily broke down as he recalled Mr. Dole's support during the five years he spent in a North Vietnamese prisoner-of-war camp.

The nomination was seconded by two high school students who appeared by live satellite link-up from Russell, Kansas, where the entire town had gathered in front of the floodlit courthouse to cheer on their famous son.

Back in the convention hall the Kansas delegation was given the honour of casting the 996th vote required to nominate Mr. Dole. As the delegates erupted in wild celebration Mr. Dole punched the air in his hotel room, exclaimed "Awright, awright", hugged his wife and shook hands with the Kemps.

A daily tracking poll yesterday offered less good news for Mr. Dole. It showed President Clinton's lead widening by five points to nearly 17 per cent despite Mr. Dole's widely acclaimed selection of Mr. Kemp and the apparent success of this minutely stage-managed convention.



Bob Dole's wife, Elizabeth, takes to the floor at the convention to extol his virtues in a riveting performance

Dissenters silenced as Republican image-makers massage the media

BY TIM HAMES

COMMENTARY

IT USED to be said that there were two national conventions happening at any time, an event in the conference centre and another on television screens. The Republican affair this year has reduced that number to one, the television occasion.

This week has seen a set of short speeches: only Colin Powell was permitted to exceed 15 minutes, with much of the content devoted to human interest stories of great

achievements by citizens acting on their own without the dead hand of big government. Interspersed between these homilies, and a new technique, are video clips of ordinary Americans endorsing Republican ideas.

The zenith, or nadir, of this approach came on Tuesday when Newt Gingrich, the ideologue House Speaker, was allowed five minutes, outside prime time, in which he extolled a charity that provides dogs to help the handicapped. Republicans have produced a made-for-media rally.

Less than 20 years ago they lasted for four whole days and were devoted to the internal means of the party organisation. The entire platform, often 100,000 words long, would be read to delegates for their approval. The evening sessions were devoted to speeches of 30 minutes or more by senior figures who spoke by right of their position, no matter how dreadful

their oratory. The whole occasion, every minute, was covered by all three major television networks. It was worthy but tedious.

Starting in the 1980s, responding to their ratings, the stations cut back their coverage. This year little more than an hour a day is live, and that punctuated by commercials and commentary. The Republicans under their chairman, Haley Barbour, a former television personality himself, have adapted to that trend. There is barely 10 hours of

total convention time. All of it is designed for viewers, whether on the major networks or those such as CNN that cover far more. The delegates are now props who have been told not to argue in public and offered detailed advice on their dress sense.

The Republicans have succeeded in getting their scripts across. The main aim was to avoid the mistake of four years ago when the party came across as harsh and doctrinaire, not least because of a bombastic speech by Pat Buchanan. Female voters were particularly repelled.

The objective this time has been to look open. All speeches have emphasised the same storyline: lower taxes, smaller and smarter government, stronger families and the character contrast between Bob Dole and Bill Clinton.

The message is reinforced by the choice of people. On Monday the public saw two former Presidents, Gerald Ford and George Bush, former First Lady Nancy Reagan, and General Colin Powell. A more moving group would be hard to find.

Tuesday brought a white woman Governor, a white woman senator, and a black congressman. Wednesday's prime time featured Mr. Dole's wife and daughter before the nominating speeches by John McCain, an Asian American, and Henry Bonilla, a Hispanic congressman.

The US media are not quite sure how to handle this sophistry. An extreme reaction came from ABC's Ted Koppel, host of *Nightline*, a serious

show. He pronounced San Diego to be an "infernal" rather than real news and returned to Washington. Virtually all other programmes have tried to place a health warning by emphasising the degree of scripting occurring in their discussion slots. Yet previous evidence, especially from the Reagan era, is that the visual impact is much more powerful for viewers than the sceptical analysis. This has been good television for the Republicans that will have softened their image.

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Klan pair guilty of church attacks

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

TWO members of the Christian Knights of the Ku-Klux-Klan have pleaded guilty to setting fire to two black churches in South Carolina in the first convictions of Klan members in any of the church burnings sweeping the American South.

President Clinton established a Church Arson Task Force last month to investigate the rash of 74 suspicious fires at black churches since January 1985. The inquiry involves about 1,000 officers.

Although Mr. Clinton has declared that "racial hostility is the driving force" behind the surge in fires at black churches, government officials doubt there is a nationwide conspiracy. So far 40 people — including 14 blacks — have been arrested in connection with 26 arson attacks on black churches in the South.

A detailed survey by the *USA Today* newspaper last month found no evidence of a widespread racist plot. However, clusters of fires in two areas, including North and South Carolina, suggested

localised cases of serial arson. The latest guilty pleas in Charleston, South Carolina, will bolster the argument of civil rights groups such as the Centre for Democratic Renewal that most of the attacks are racially motivated.

Gary Christopher Cox, 22, and Timothy Adron Welch, 24, face up to 55 years in jail after admitting burning down the Mt Zion church in Greelyville on June 20, 1995, and the Macedonia Baptist Church in nearby Bloomville on the following day. The two men also pleaded guilty to charges of assault and battery with intent to kill when they stabbed a black man on June 16, 1995.

Prosecutors said Cox and Welch both attended meetings of the white supremacist Ku-Klux-Klan where they were told black churches promoted the interests of black people "to the detriment of white persons".

However, Gary White, a lawyer for the Christian Knights, denied that the group had instigated the attacks.

CIA denies director will quit

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE CIA attempted yesterday to refute reports that John Deutch, its director, planned to step down before the end of the year and become the third spy chief to leave office during President Clinton's tenure at the White House.

Friends said Mr. Deutch, apparently unhappy with the CIA culture, was now aiming his sights at the Pentagon, an old stamping-ground where he wants to succeed William Perry, the Defence Secretary, in a second Clinton term. The reports, in *The Washington Post*, prompted hollow denials from a CIA official, who claimed the current director "continues to look down the road and into next year".

At Langley, the CIA headquarters, there was little surprise yesterday among those with whom Mr. Deutch has spoken openly about a December departure. "He has never been comfortable with the CIA culture and he misses the Pentagon where he was really happy," a CIA colleague said.

Stars shun Clinton's 50th birthday

BY TOM RHODES

ON MONDAY President Clinton will turn 50, entering the potential minefield of the midlife crisis, the religious awakening and perhaps even the career change.

A fund-raising party at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sunday night promises to be a star-studded event, but many Hollywood performers are shunning the party, to stick to 27.9 per cent.

from \$250 (£161) to \$10,000, but for a mere \$100, loyal Democrats can watch the event by satellite at 120 sites.

Hillary Clinton has hired Jeff Margolis, the producer of the Oscars, to oversee the programme, which encompasses the five decades of the President's life. Among the performers will be Tony Bennett, Jon Bon Jovi, Aretha Franklin and Carly Simon, followed by middle-ranking

friend of the Clintons, is to be mistress of ceremonies.

Also attending will be Candace Bergen, Phil Collins, Harrison Ford, Jodie Foster and Michelle Pfeiffer. Among invitees not attending are Paul McCartney, nursing his sick wife Linda, and Kim Basinger, looking after her baby, Michael Douglas has simply "passed". Barbara Streisand, upset at being up-

FRANCIS ALLOT

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Women smokers 'face greater cancer risk'

By ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY, NIGEL HAWKES AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

WOMEN smokers are more likely to develop lung cancer than men, according to an Australian study.

They also seem to need fewer cigarettes to do so, the report commissioned by the Australian College of Physicians said.

The Australian claims found little support, however, from Professor Richard Peto, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at Oxford. "Big studies have shown that women and men have about the same chance of dying of cancer if they smoke the same amount," he said. "I haven't seen the study the Australian claims are based on, but I suspect it will turn out to be a small one. There is pretty good evidence that it cannot be true."

Steve Gourlay, the overseas research fellow who conducted the review, said the study showed that women were more susceptible to smoking-related lung damage than men, making them more likely to fall victim to cancer. He said an American study found that a woman who smoked a packet a day for 40 years, had a cancer risk three times higher than a man smoking the same amount of tobacco.

Other studies had found higher levels of genetic damage in female smokers, which suggested that the same amount of smoke caused more harm to women than men, Mr Gourlay pointed out.

The research also found that women had more difficulty giving up smoking than men. An Australian study showed that 18 per cent of women who smoked



more than 15 cigarettes a day managed to quit the habit, compared with 25 per cent of men.

Professor Peto says, however, that at any given age women appear to be marginally less vulnerable than men to smoking-induced cancer. This advantage disappears, however, because they live longer and are therefore exposed to more

smoke. Nor is it true that women find it harder to give up, according to another ICRF researcher, Dr Martin Jarvis.

He looked at national data for the UK, and found that "in the younger age groups, women are slightly better at giving up. Middle-aged women are not quite as good as middle-aged men, and in the elderly it's about equal. Overall, there's nothing to choose between men and women."

From Bette Davis to Bet Lynch, the female smoker may seem an ideal target for cigarettes designed especially for them. Although long, slender cigarettes seem aimed mainly at women smokers, tobacco manufacturers say this advertising strategy does not pay. A woman's brand choice is driven mostly by price, packaging and taste and far less by advertising.

"Very few brands are launched with women in mind. Most brands are aimed at smokers as a whole, not just women or men," said Clive Turner of the Tobacco Manufacturers' Association.

Virginia Slims is one of the exceptions, the brand having proclaimed that it was made "especially for women because women are dainty and beautiful and sweet and generally different from men".

There are an estimated 1.1 billion smokers in the world, of whom fewer than half are women. Females make up about half the smokers in the Western world, but a substantially lower proportion in developing countries.



Seven men, including four from Hong Kong, are led to execution in Shenzhen, southern China, yesterday after what was said to be the biggest drug trafficking case since the Communists came to power. They had smuggled 1,320lb of heroin

Indian learns not to be lost for words

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S new Prime Minister, H. D. Deve Gowda, addressed the nation for the first time yesterday and understood hardly a word of what he told 950 million people.

He speaks practically no Hindi, the language that he used from the ramparts of the Red Fort for a traditional feel-good speech marking Independence Day. Hardly anybody, relatively speaking, understands Mr Gowda's native tongue, Kannada, which is spoken in the southwestern state of Karnataka.

He wrote his speech in Kannada and had it translated into Hindi, although written in the script of his own language. He has been reading it over and over with the aid of a Hindi teacher to try to get the accent and emphasis right: it turned out to be a flawed performance, but nevertheless impressive for somebody who a few months ago had never uttered a word of India's most widely spoken language.

Before becoming Prime Minister just over two months ago, Mr Gowda was Chief Minister of Karnataka, a small, progressive state, and was almost unknown in national politics. That was hardly surprising: he could not talk to anybody.

He remains handicapped in the Hindi-speaking north and must speak to his Cabinet ministers through translators or stumble along in limited English. English is the lingua franca in a country with so many languages and dialects that nobody knows exactly how many there are — at the last count, there were something over 225 distinct languages, only 17 of which are officially recognised.

Mr Gowda carries a small notepad in which he writes down useful Hindi expressions. The contents of this personal phrasebook of political terminology would doubtless disclose much about the Prime Minister's approach to his job, but he keeps it close to his chest.

He has acquired a Hindi teacher, Brij Mohan Mishra, who enthuses about the Prime Minister's progress. Mr Gowda is learning by rote. "The Prime Minister could not, unlike a schoolboy, sit at home and master the alphabet and grammar," Mr Mishra was quoted as saying. "All he wanted was to understand Hindi and be in a position to use it as and when occasion demanded to meet the obligations of his office." The Prime Minister has decided not to study Hindi's Devanagari script.

Mr Mishra, who speaks Kannada, is accorded the respectful title Masterji by the Prime Minister. The two meet at odd times when Mr Gowda has a gap in his diary. "I have found him so good that he reproduces flawlessly with the same inflection and diction with which I pronounce," Mr Mishra said in his distinctive English.



Deve Gowda: lack of Hindi handicaps him

Peking warns of Japanese militarism

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

ANGERED by a visit last month by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, to a shrine honouring Japanese war dead, China issued a warning yesterday of a possible resurgence of militarism in Japan and said Tokyo had made only a few "shallow apologies" for war atrocities.

In an editorial marking the 51st anniversary of Japan's surrender at the end of the Second World War, a commentary in *China Daily* said: "We must be on the alert for the possible revival of militarism in Japan."

Accompanied by a cartoon illustrating a skeleton clad in a Japanese Imperial Army uniform stalking the Pacific, a rising sun flag hanging from its rifle, the commentary said of Japanese officials: "Their sincerity is still questionable."

Of Mr Hashimoto's recent visit to the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo where the souls of Japan's war dead, including convicted war criminals, are said to repose, the editorial noted: "Hashimoto has now set an example that could lead to a militarist revival in Japan."

Mr Hashimoto was the first in office since 1985 to visit the Shinto place of worship, where he said it was time for Japan to stop apologising for honouring its fallen soldiers.

"Sticking to this unapologetic stance and denying historical facts will only lead Japan to isolation," Chinese newspapers said, pointing out that several Japanese politicians in recent years had tried to whitewash Japan's war atrocities.

Mr Hashimoto's action has drawn criticism throughout East Asia, and has prompted adverse comments from Singapore to Hong Kong, both of which suffered during Japanese bombing and occupation.

"The sense of a superpower is swelling in the minds of some ordinary Japanese," China's state-run Xinhua news agency said.

Aborigines threaten Olympic boycott

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ABORIGINES threatened yesterday to disrupt the 2000 Olympics in Sydney after the Australian Government said it planned big reductions in the Aboriginal share of funds.

The £200 million cuts, to be announced officially in next week's Budget, will be spread over four years and mainly affect business schemes and community programmes set up to help the country's 400,000 Aborigines. The Aboriginal Affairs Ministry said health, housing, education and employment assistance would not be affected, but community leaders branded the cuts as "a spear in the heart" of self-determination.

They have said there will be no sports during the 2000

2000 Olympics if Canberra does not change its mind. Appeals to African and Asian countries would be made.

Terry O'Shane, the Queensland Aboriginal leader, who called John Howard, the Prime Minister, a racist for his actions, said: "This Budget indicates that reconciliation is gone: it's a joke." He said the Olympics would be used to focus worldwide attention on the plight of Australia's native people. "We are putting the wider Australian community on notice... 2000 will not be a year they will remember with great joy and pride."

The cuts come after increasing concern about alleged wasting of funds. Millions of

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Rebels' wounded chief dreams of Russian-free city

SHAMIL BASAYEV, the Chechen rebel commander who masterminded the lightning raid to recapture Grozny, sat in his dingy underground bunker nursing a fresh wound and plotting his next move against the Russians.

For a man whose very name strikes terror into the hearts of many Russians, the guerrilla commander appeared surprisingly soft-spoken yesterday during a visit to his command post near the front line in central Grozny. But his message was as threatening as any of the militants fighting under his command.

Despite the continuing blast of tank and mortar rounds and frequent exchanges of automatic fire, residents said the city was relatively quiet and that the ceasefire, announced this week, gradually appeared to be holding. Chechen claims to have seized 90 per cent of the devastated city seemed accurate. A few pockets of Russians are still holding out, but without fresh supplies, the rebels expect them to accept their offer or surrender any day.

The last vestiges of the pro-Moscow Government have been all but erased. The police post at the railway station was wiped out in what was clearly a dramatic battle, while the refurbished prosecutor's office

In a frontline bunker, Shamil Basayev tells Richard Beeston that Moscow's influence must be purged for peace in Grozny

and Supreme Court building were still smouldering. Mr Basayev, instantly recognisable from his shaven head and bushy black beard, insisted that the battle was not over. Peace, he said, would only come when the last Russian had left Grozny. "I don't trust any Russian and, as I believe Churchill once said, an agreement with them is not worth the paper it is written on," said the guerrilla chief, who was shot in the left



Basayev: "I do not like fighting at all"

foot two days ago and now inspects his forces on crutches. Asked about the role of General Aleksandr Lebed, the Kremlin's new troubleshooter on Chechnya, Mr Basayev said there was "some hope" of a peace deal but that he still had deep misgivings.

Given his mistrust of Russians, Mr Basayev said he was preparing future operations in the event of the truce collapsing. His plan is to starve out the surrounded Russian posts in the city and to organise the siege and capture of the two main Russian military bases at the airports of Khankala and Severny outside Grozny.

Mr Basayev, a former land management student in Moscow, for the first time gave details about the campaign he masterminded and led on August 6. He said the operation to attack Grozny, drive out the Russians and hold the city had been finalised in May, but it was put off after the peace deal with the Kremlin during President Yeltsin's re-election campaign. After the Russians resumed attacks last month, it was decided to reactivate the



Chechen mothers weep at their plight as their children are served a meal of bread and soup at a temporary refuge outside Grozny

operation. "There were 1,500 fighters involved in the operation and we hit the city from three sides," he said. "The battle for the city was won in the first half-hour of combat."

Mr Basayev, who estimated that Russian losses ran into the thousands, conceded that Moscow's superior forces could retake the city. "It will cost them between 10,000 and 15,000 lives but they could probably do it in a month," he

said. "However, a month later we could come back and retake the city."

The Chechen guerrilla chief, who lost several members of his family during the 20-month war, first came to prominence in 1991 when he hijacked a Russian passenger aircraft to Turkey, where he surrendered but negotiated his release home.

Last year his notoriety spread worldwide when he led a bloody hostage raid in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk, in an operation that left 120 people dead. He again escaped.

Now back in Grozny, having once more humiliated the Russians, Mr Basayev speaks wistfully about one day returning to a peaceful life in Chechnya with his family.

Lebed returns to Grozny

Moscow: Expressing support for a new peace accord, General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian security chief, arrived in Chechnya for the second time in a week yesterday (Thomas de Waal writes). He is armed with new powers to deal with the crisis.

Speaking to reporters outside the ruined city of Grozny,

he raised the stakes in his policy battle with hardliners who want the war to continue. "The President [Boris Yeltsin] is tired of war," he said.

His immediate task is to enforce a proper ceasefire in Grozny, the Chechen capital, where several thousand rebel fighters and soldiers are still firing at each other.

Nervy Juppé moves to deny rift with bank

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, the French Prime Minister, emphatically denied there was any conflict between the Government and the Bank of France this week, as he repeated his Maastricht mantra in a further attempt to calm turbulent markets.

But the fact that M Juppé made the announcement in the middle of his annual holiday, an institution almost as sacrosanct as economic union in French official thinking, is a clear sign that with the single currency deadline approaching and the French economy in the doldrums, relations between the Government and the central bank are far from harmonious.

The franc tumbled last week amid speculation that calls for legal action against former directors of the loss making Credit Lyonnais bank represented a deliberate attempt to undermine Jean-Claude Trichet, the governor of the Bank of France, who has been the target of mounting criticism in government circles. As the

former director of the Treasury, M Trichet was responsible for overseeing state-owned banks when Credit Lyonnais plunged into the red in the early 1990s.

But Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, has denied that his demand for a full investigation to find those responsible for the banking debacle was an effort to weaken the governor of the Bank of France. "Jean-Claude Trichet has never been implicated in this affair," M Arthuis said this week in an interview with *Paris Match*.

On Wednesday, M Juppé described the currency fluctuations as a "storm in a teacup" and insisted "there is no conflict whatever between the Government and the Bank of France. Each is doing its job. The bank is independent."

But it is precisely the bank's autonomy, and M Trichet's rigid monetary stance, that is believed to have irked the Government. In his Bastille Day speech last month, Presi-

dent Chirac questioned whether M Trichet had sufficiently monitored Credit Lyonnais as Treasury director and sharply criticised the high levels of interest rates.

M Juppé's denials of a rift have helped to calm the markets, at least temporarily, but insiders say that there is little love lost between M Chirac and the central banker appointed under the previous government.

Analysts say the President would like to see lower short-term interest rates to boost economic activity, increase tax revenue and cut back the deficit in time for economic union, while M Trichet, the prime defender of the "franc fort" policy, is deeply committed to protecting the currency and lending off inflation.

M Trichet was appointed in 1993 to head the newly independent Bank of France and however much the President objects to his policy of gradual rate cuts, he does not have the power to remove him.

WORLD SUMMARY

Passenger flight to Sarajevo

Sarajevo: The battle-scarred Sarajevo airport, which served as the Bosnian capital's lifeline throughout much of the war, opened for commercial flights yesterday for the first time in four years (Stacy Sullivan writes).

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, and President Izetbegovic of Bosnia presided over the airport's opening ceremony after the first commercial Air Bosnia plane touched down on the shell-pocked runway. "This is a new symbol of this city's reintegration with the rest of the world," Mr Christopher said.

35 killed at Peru firework display

Lima: An electrical cable brought down by a misfired rocket electrocuted 35 people, some of whom burst into flames, as they watched a fireworks display in the southern Peruvian city of Arequipa. Electricity surged through the bodies of the people packed on to a bridge to celebrate the 450th anniversary of the founding of Arequipa on Wednesday night. Only 12 of the dead have been identified and some were burned beyond recognition. (AP)

Bangkok leader silences daughter

Bangkok: Banham Silpa-archa, the embattled Prime Minister of Thailand, yesterday dragged his daughter from in front of television cameras as she tried to talk about his political crisis. "There are troubles plaguing Dad and I want my father to retire from politics as soon as possible. I myself am also fed up with..." Kanchara Silpa-archa, an MP, was saying as she was interrupted. (Reuters)

Zambia activists tried for treason

Eight pro-democracy campaigners on trial in Zambia for treason, which carries the death penalty, said government agents carried out bombings to discredit their party before this year's elections (Chris Broadhurst writes). The eight allegedly back the "Black Mamba", a clandestine group that has admitted a bomb attack at Lusaka airport.

Abacha sacks all state bosses

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's ruler, has cemented his position by dismissing all 30 state administrators. The change is the most sweeping at state level since General Abacha took power in 1993. The administrators have been replaced by military-ranking

Yeltsin picks new economic chief

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

IN A move that will gladden Western investors in Russia, Vladimir Potanin, a young and dynamic commercial banker, was made economic supreme yesterday in the first post-election reshuffle.

Mr Potanin, 35, one of a new generation of private bankers, will be a new First Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, charting the overall course of economic reform. He will be directly responsible for working with the International Monetary Fund on the implementation of its \$8 billion (£5 billion) loan to Russia.

Mr Potanin is one of a

group of economists who were never involved in the old Soviet command economy. He did not formally study banking but within three years made Oneximbank one of the most successful commercial banks in the country.

"He is inexperienced in terms of government and he is quite young," said one Western diplomat. "But as head of Oneximbank, in three years he has already proved that he is a tough and effective operator."

On the debit side, Mr Potanin is reputed to be a political insider who is closely tied to many top officials.

Some critics said his appointment was a symptom of an alliance between commercial sectors and government, which are dividing the spoils of privatisation.

Alongside Mr Potanin there will be other two deputies to Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister: Aleksei Bolshakov, a rather colourless technocrat, and Viktor Ilyushin, President Yeltsin's closest adviser for 20 years. Another new arrival from the Kremlin is Aleksandr Livshits, who takes on probably the toughest job in government, Finance Minister with responsibility for the budget.



Potanin: rapid rise as influential banker

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Times page 29

A child torn between two worlds

The woman he calls mummy wants him back with her in London. His natural father says ten-year-old Sifiso is happy in South Africa. Here both parties tell their story

Three months ago there were harrowing scenes at Heathrow airport when Sifiso Mahlangu, a ten-year-old Zulu boy, refused to board a plane to South Africa.

For the past four years he had lived in Britain with Salome Stopford, a white woman whom he called "Mummy", and her three daughters at her luxurious four-bedroom flat in Maida Vale, north London.

Mrs Stopford had hoped to adopt Sifiso, but in April this year the House of Lords ruled that he must be returned to his natural parents, and would not allow a delay while the case went to the European Court of Human Rights.

This extraordinary story begins in South Africa in 1986, in Brakpan, a town 20 miles from Johannesburg. Selina and Charles Mahlangu worked as live-in maid and chauffeur to Mrs Stopford and her husband, a wealthy Afrikaner.

Mrs Stopford became fond of Sifiso and allowed him to stay at the house, rather than sending him to his grandparents' home (a common practice under apartheid). She also paid for his education. In

1992, Mrs Stopford, by now a widow, decided to move to England, and asked Sifiso's parents if she could take him too.

They agreed on the condition that contact would be maintained through letters, and they would be given pre-paid tickets to visit their son in England twice a year.

By 1994, the letters had petered out, the tickets had not arrived, and Mrs Stopford had applied to adopt Sifiso. Mr Mahlangu contacted Black Sash, a South African civil rights organisation. Newspapers there took up the case and a magazine offered to buy the parents' story.

Sifiso was never given the opportunity to speak in court. An expert in child psychology gave his opinion that Sifiso might never recover from being separated from the woman he called "Mummy". The court was also told that Sifiso no longer spoke Zulu. Before he finally departed, Sifiso told how, on a trial visit to see his parents, he had slept in the same bed as his mother, and bathed using a bucket.

Mrs Stopford insists that Sifiso is unhappy. Mr Mahlangu denies this. The debate continues.



Salome Stopford: "My biggest fear was that Phiso might think I had abandoned him because he didn't have any letters or phone calls from me"

SALOME STOPFORD'S STORY

— you signed them "love mummy".

"I broke down and sobbed. I said, what do you expect me to put Salome or Mrs Stopford? I said that if I did that, the child would feel that I had abandoned him totally."

"My biggest fear at the time was that Phiso might think that I had abandoned him because he didn't have any letters or phone calls from me. The girls and I are at home and we have each other. He's all alone and has got nobody to talk to."

To make it worse, the reports she had from South Africa were that Sifiso was being moved around by his parents and that he had

disappeared. "Some family friends who grew up with the girls and knew Phiso called to see him after he arrived. There were two enormous guards on the door who wouldn't let them in. The next day they went back and the house was empty."

Finally, after an eight-week silence, Sifiso did call. "I was over the moon. His first words were 'Mummy. I want to come home'."

But her relief was mixed with anxiety that he was not being looked after properly. What she hears of his new life in their regular chats makes her extremely anxious. "The child phones me from 6,000 miles to find where his father

is because he's not collected him from school. He's not going home after school. He's on the streets with no supervision with a lot of money on him. I know Charles is giving Phiso 10 per cent of the family income for pocket money. Phiso knows it's not right and has said, 'He's trying to buy me'."

Mrs Stopford also worries that Sifiso is being exploited. She says that Mr Mahlangu has tried to sell his story and that Phiso has had time off school to attend an interview for a TV commercial.

But still, she says, social workers are not listening to Sifiso. "Phiso refused to speak to a social worker in South

Africa who had to prepare a report on him. He said: 'Mummy, I don't want to speak to the social workers. They want to keep me here.' I reassured him that she was there to help him."

Now she feels these reassurances were misplaced. "I've just received her report. It is superficial and states that he has settled in well and is happy. It fails to mention what I know that he told her very definitely — that he wants to come home."

"I've let him go. He's had the experience and now I feel it's time somebody started listening to him and his needs. I'll listen to him — if he tells me to carry on fighting, I will. Whatever he wants I'll support him."

And then she adds: "I re-

member when I was a child, wondering if you could love an adopted child as much as your own. The answer is yes." As we stroll around Paddington Recreational Ground where Sifiso rode on his mountain bike and played with his friends, it is clear how much she misses him.

Mrs Stopford now pins her hopes on Mr Mahlangu standing by his promise to return Sifiso to live with the Stopfords if the boy is unhappy — a promise which she says he repeated on South African television only this week.

In the meantime, she sends cards to Sifiso on which she draws a circle. "He knows it represents my love — it has no beginning and no end."

BEVERLY GOLDEN

CHARLES MAHLANGU'S STORY

Earlier this week Charles Mahlangu was reported in South Africa as saying that his son would return to England for educational reasons.

He did not, however, give a date, and when he spoke to *The Times* yesterday, he appeared — not for the first time — unsure and confused.

Discovering how Sifiso really feels is still more difficult, not least because his father would not allow me near him. When I arrived yesterday morning at City Driving School in Brakpan, 20 miles east of Johannesburg, where Mr Mahlangu is employed as a driving instructor, Sifiso, dressed in a neat school uniform, appeared a picture of happiness.

Smiling broadly and giggling he played outside the entrance to the office with a friend. Gazing through the window, Mr Mahlangu sighed and said: "You see, the boy is happy."

Mr Mahlangu acknowledges that he promised Sifiso he would consider returning him to England if he had not settled after six months. But he says Mrs Stopford's recent behaviour has complicated the situation and is non-committal about the boy's future. He is upset that she has taken legal action without giving the boy time to settle.

"That child is not a European child, he is my child. She has to come to me and talk to me. If she goes to court I will say no." Shaking his head he added: "At the present he's still confused. I'm confused. It is too early."

Mr Mahlangu has been angered by Mrs Stopford's failure to consult him and remains deeply suspicious of her. Her accusation that he is trying to buy off the child has infuriated him. Mr Mahlangu levels the same charge against her. He claims she recently sent money for Sifiso to the boy's headmaster, via a British journalist, and cannot hide his disgust. He confronted Mrs Stopford on the issue earlier this week. "I will use this to destroy her plans," he says curtly.

Central to her adoption claims is the belief that she can provide a better education and life for the child. While Mrs Stopford lives in an expensive flat in Maida Vale, Mr Mahlangu and his wife have lived for the past few years in



Sifiso Mahlangu photographed in South Africa in May

Tsakane, a township near Brakpan, populated by 20,000 souls who generally live in small brick houses and rickety tin shacks. Many homes on the dusty, often unnamed streets do not have running water and electricity.

Mr Mahlangu has been in the habit of exaggerating his circumstances. After Sifiso returned to England his parents claimed to be living at a prosperous-looking residence, but it belonged to a friend. Recently, though, the family bought a new four-roomed brick house in a new housing extension in the township.

Mr Mahlangu clearly resents suggestions that England is better, and says Mrs Stopford has used her skin colour to manipulate the situation. "I don't regret being black," he says. "I had to live that life. It's her good luck to be white and rich."

Mr Mahlangu gleefully produces a letter from his solicitors in London. It contains a glowing report from his school headmaster which refers to how Sifiso has settled into his new school in Brakpan.

also a report from social workers which speaks warmly about the way Sifiso has adjusted to family life, speaks Zulu with his mother, and assists around the house.

In addition, the report highlights how the parents' joint income — Selina, his wife, works as a maid on 1,998 rands (£296) per month — adequately covers the bills. It says Sifiso has his own room in the house with a bed and, although the parents are still looking for a cupboard, "he is comfortable and likes spending time there". To Mr Mahlangu's evident delight the reports referred to how the

parents had gone out of their way to make his life happy. "You see the truth," he says.

Mr Mahlangu says he just wants to do what is best for the child and is only interested in his happiness. He feels it is important that Sifiso learns about his roots and culture. He says his wife is totally opposed to the boy returning to England even for a visit, but he is keeping an open mind. "You must never say never. Sifiso is leading his own life. I'm leading my life. I don't want to close the gate on my boy."

INIGO GILMORE

A LETTER TO ENGLAND

I 1994-95-2000
Dear Mummy and
Sis. How are
you? I want
to come home. I
miss you so much
and I can't come
home. I miss you
so much I can't
say.

I want
to come
home because
I miss you
and I miss
my family.
I just want
to come home.

I want
to come
home to
my things
and family.
I love you.

I want
to come
home to
my things
and family.
I love you.

I want
to come
home to
my things
and family.
I love you.

I want
to come
home to
my things
and family.
I love you.

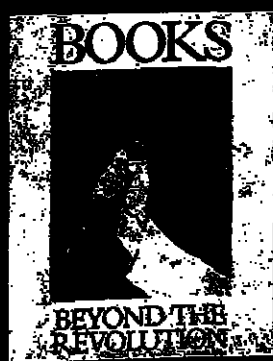
Above are the six
pages of a letter
Sifiso wrote in July
this year to Salome
Stopford and her
daughters in
London,
addressing it to
"Dear Mummy
and Sis"



THE MAGAZINE
The queen of
hardcore fawn:
Hello! magazine's
Marquesa reveals all



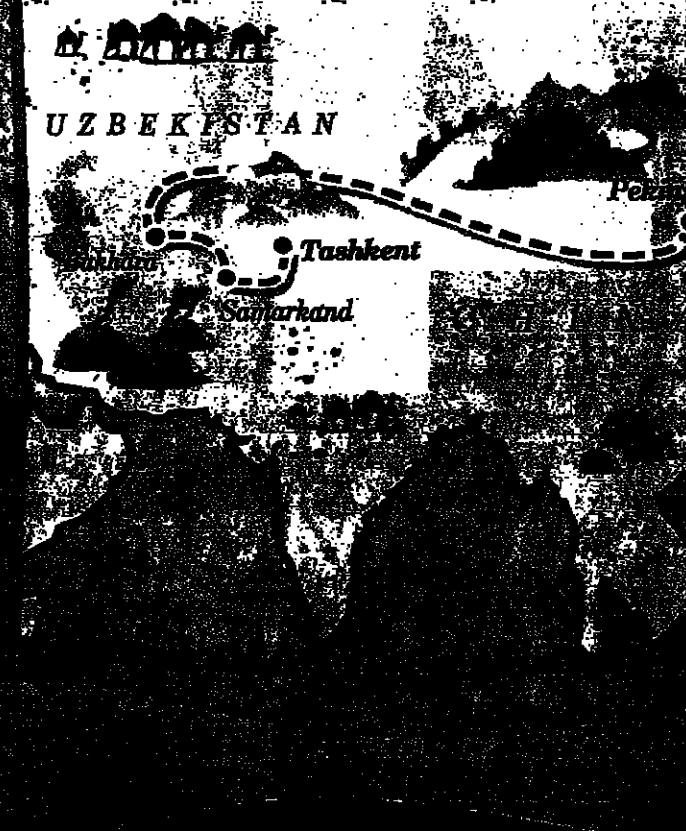
THE CULTURE
No longer gods:
why the age of great
conductors is dead



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J.P. 11/15/96

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to prove
something
has kept
me going

David Blunkett tests
to change the world

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'The drive to prove something has kept me going'

A steely David Blunkett feels impelled to change the world

David Blunkett: the name could be from a 19th-century novel. His life story is a moral fable. He was born when his mother, a factory worker, was 43. At four, he was sent away to a school for the blind in Shropshire. When he was 12, his father fell into a vat of boiling water at work and died. His mother had a struggle to get any pension at all from the Gas Board.

Mr. Blunkett was driven by ambition: to pass exams, despite a headmaster who thought exams unnecessary; to go to university (Sheffield, to read politics) and to change the world. He might have become a Methodist minister, but by the age of 32,

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



man must be neat — is a crank-shaft made of Sheffield steel. Mr. Blunkett needs to be unwaveringly steely. He was almost scuppered by the Blair and Harman school choices; everyone felt sorry for him. "I've deliberately set aside the private choices of colleagues," his stock response runs, "and concentrated on defending our policies. That's my job." Twenty out of 23 Tory Cabinet ministers had a child at private school, he added: "There

are things taken for granted that the Tories do, that we cannot do. People actually expect more of us."

That day's ICM poll showed a reduced lead for Labour. "It's a strange world," he mused. "I fear memories are short, and the tax in-

just after his mother died of cancer, he was elected leader of Sheffield City Council.

August 1996, 17 years on. Through his office window near Sheffield's City Hall comes music from a funfair. At the door lies Lucy, with her glossy black curls and brown eyes, his guide dog. David Blunkett, in his fifth year, Shadow Secretary for Education and Employment, does not rock the Blair boat. In his well-cut suit, he is tanned and feeling "much more personable" after a holiday in Majorca with his three sons, aged 19, 16 and 13. They are "pleasant young men who have not gone astray" but the modern teenager's capacity for idleness amazes him. When he was a lad not even blindness could stop him from cycling, tobogganing, rowing, playing cricket and football. In Majorca he hired a tandem.

"The drive to prove something to myself as well as to others," as he writes in his moving memoirs, *On a Clear Day*, "has kept me going all my life."

On his tidy desk — a blind

creases have begun to fade in their minds. Which is why John Major is hanging on till next spring, putting off difficult decisions, same as last time." The question is, will interest rates rise in the first three months of the year, or the last nine? "If it's in the last nine, it's us."

The poll shows Labour well ahead on education, but he is not complacent; the Tories' demon-eyed Blair poster will have an impact even if solid Labour supporters hold it in contempt. "They are targeting white-collar waverers. They aim to sow seeds of worry and insecurity about change. And the drip-drip effect of doubt is very effective."

Though a radical in economics, he is a social conservative. "I am a fundamentalist in education. I believe in discipline, solid mental arithmetic, plenty of homework."

When he is told, at a school, that things cannot improve because of the socio-economic background of the pupil intake, he says nonsense. "I know it can be done, if the expectation and the will is

there to lift horizons. The vast majority of students can do it, given the inspiration. I've done it myself." (He taught surly bricklayers a baptism of fire.) "The only way out of inequality is through education; or you end up filling shelves in a Meadowhall supermarket."

He wants to attract mature people into teaching: "People who have lived a bit, been successful in other fields." I recall that John Patten had the same idea, but the teaching unions blocked it. Mr. Blunkett says there will be no threat to serving teachers because we are going to have a teacher shortage when pupil-teacher ratios are restored.

On the council estate where he grew up, there was neighbourliness, a sense of belonging. But then people had jobs and stability. Unemployment undermined all that.

"We have to make getting up in the morning and going to work the normal pattern of life again. We have to ensure that young men are attractive to young women for more than a night, a reasonable bet for the future, to bring up children

together in a family unit." The family unit? Hard to legislate for. "On the contrary, just as economic policies can unpick the social fabric, as the poll tax did, you can impose policies that weave the fabric back again."

His marriage, which survived for 17 stormy years, was never going to work, he says now, and he acknowledges in his book that people sometimes go into politics "to compensate for the lack of satisfaction in their private lives".

When he joined the Sheffield Labour Party — "tedious smoke-filled meetings that bored the bum off you" — they did not bother to deliver leaflets to owner-occupied houses. There is no place for those defeatist attitudes now: "We have to appeal to *Daily Mail* readers as well as to *Daily Mirror* readers. Many of them have the same hopes." He lives alone, and cooks for

himself. While others drink in the Commons bars, he works late into the evening, listening to his letters on cassette, or reading in Braille. It makes him seem aloof and unsociable, "but I never want anyone to say I didn't do the job well because I couldn't see".

His London flat is near Linden Lodge, the school for the blind where the pianist George Shearing learnt, like Mr. Blunkett, to play cricket with a bell inside the ball. Mr. Blunkett's blindness will ensure him a place in history, along with his three guide dogs, the first allowed in the House of Commons. When Teddy died, it was on the national news; people sent £7,500 for guide dogs, and Baroness Thatcher wrote in sympathy. Every day, on the Tube, people recognise Lucy, and talk to him first about his dog, then about politics. And if he gets a ministerial car next

year, he will insist on using the Tube sometimes — "not to get detached from reality".

The most frustrating feature of politics now is being accused by colleagues of not acting on certain principles, when they should realise that unless they get elected they will never deliver anything. When we spoke of one of those forces of darkness around Mr. Blair, he said: "Peter [Mandelson] has one objective, and that is to win the general election. I have a key part to play in that, and have to get on with it."

Tony Blair has taken us into the early 21st century where we have to be, one step ahead of the Conservatives. It's a game of chess. Your opponents lay traps. We are not competing with idiots. These people have been in power for nearly 18 years. We haven't won an election for 22 years. We have to be as canny as they are. It's our job to make sure we don't let it slip through our fingers this time."

On a Clear Day is published on August 23 by Michael O'Mara Books, £5.99



David Blunkett: "I've set aside the private choices of colleagues and concentrated on defending our policies. That's my job"

Hey Sean, let's party

Joseph Connolly meets the stars at Edinburgh's hottest bash. At least, that's what he had planned

I was supposed to be the hottest ticket in town — the one big party of the Edinburgh Festival that anyone who was even hoping one day to be almost someone simply had to attend. People, I was told, would kill for a ticket — and I didn't have one.

All the ballyhoo surrounded the huge and much vaunted bash to launch the fiftieth annual film festival, and one of the reasons everyone around was salivating was the thick and clinging rumour that it was to be graced by no less a presence than St Sean of Connery — generally held to be the greatest and most famous Scotsman since time began.

My esteemed literary agent, Giles Gordon, lives in Edinburgh, and of course he had a ticket, being a Scot second in fame and greatness only to Connery himself. So would I like to come along? Every-

one from the world of film and TV would be there, so I said: "Sure, cool, groovy."

At the entrance to the imposing Victorian pile on Princes Street where the thrash was, we understood, already straining at the seams with fame and greatness, Giles showed me the ticket for the very first time. Alarm bells sounded: it was both mass and horribly produced, printed in red on white, and exhorted the guest to wear "a touch of gold" (oh, that touch of raff). More to the point, nowhere was there an indication that the ticket might admit two, a point the burly bouncer was quick to seize on. "You can go in," he said unsympathetically to Giles. "but this geezer is out, son."

Had it not been for an astonishing bit of sleight of hand by the arts correspondent of this very newspaper (Dalya Alberge, who is now in my will), out I doubtless should have been. As it was, I was in.

The grandeur of the building's exterior quickly gave way to the largest and most hideous gymnasium in Europe. All lit and cranked up to sauna heat, one's welcoming drink being a plastic specimen cup awash with a quarter inch of Drambuie.

Wow, I remember thinking, let the good times roll! Where are all the famous people, then? There! Over there with his back to us at that table — that's him, isn't it? That's Sean — bald head, white and grizzly beard: 607.35 years old, has to be. I'll tell you why I doubted it — that dozen of paparazzi. Richard Young, was sitting by the entrance, his back to the entrance, camera at his feet, staring wide-eyed at his complimentary thimbleful of the cup that cheers.

I have never before seen him sit, nor cease to scan the arriving faces; as for his camera, I had assumed it to be welded to his fingers.

"Where's Sean, then, Richard?" I asked. "He was here, earlier — for about two seconds," replied Richard.

The lookalike turned out to be Sean's younger brother Neil: pretty much of a ringer (in this light, anyway) except that Neil has a grey and stringy ponytail.

By this time, the noise created by hundreds and hundreds of absolute nobodies made it necessary for Giles and me to shout at each other. We were shouting about drink. Now get this bar — about a quarter of a mile over there — charged for drinks. "Champagne £12," said the sign. We ordered a bottle and were presented with more plastic cups and a Spanish cava and a bill for £18.

But hold everything — that's a great and famous Scotsman, I'm sure of it. Where? There, just beyond that girl in purple throwing up — that's Sir David Steel, that is; but why is he dressed up as Captain Hornblower, buttoned up to the neck in navy wool, and bedecked with serious amounts of heavy gold braid? Young shot off a half-hearted snap or two and Sir David solemnly assured Giles and myself that the uniform was that of a Privy Counsellor.

The invitation stated that the party would go on until 4am, but mercifully the booze ran out at one, whereupon Giles and I retired to the tranquillity of the Balmoral Hotel. Truly, sometimes the place to be is somewhere else entirely.

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Saving the heritage from ourselves

Peter Mandler says the English have been remarkably careless of historic buildings until recently

One of the recently invented "myths of the English" is that a sensitivity to the national heritage comes more deeply and naturally to the English than to Johnny Foreigner. Yes, selected Schlosser and châteaux have been fossilised by continental governments for display to herds of tourists. But in England, by contrast, the heritage still lives as part of the fabric of the nation: the great families own and inhabit the stately homes, the traditional countryside is tilled and grazed roughly as it always has been, village life remains the backbone of the culture.

Like most myths that assert a timeless stability, this one has been rigged up as a response to, and a disguise for, rapid, unsettling change. It is in almost every respect a reversal of the truth.

Until recently, the English have been remarkably careless of their national heritage. Unlike the nations on the Continent that first came into being in the last century, government here never felt compelled to make up a "national identity" by selecting and preserving relics of the past. Until the Second World War there were hardly any statutory protections for historic buildings in town or country. As one senior civil servant complained in 1927, "We certainly have less powers in this matter, I think, than any other country in Europe, with the exception of the Balkan States and Turkey." (Poor man — if he hoped to excite national indignation with this comparison to the barbaric Balkans, he failed utterly.)

Nor was this failure by government made up for by private or voluntary action. Voluntary bodies such as the National Trust were formed by anxious preservationists because they had failed to win statutory protections. They remained tiny, unimportant bodies for many years. In 1945, fifty years after its foundation, the National Trust was still limping along with fewer than 10,000 members, and many of its leaders were then contemplating handing over its work to an interventionist Labour Government.

As for private ownership, it may have kept historic buildings and countryside in use, but it was not necessarily conducive to either preservation or public appreciation. Far fewer English country houses than French châteaux were open to the public in the 1930s. And contrary to the myth, most of the open châteaux were privately owned, though often maintained in private hands by means of generous state aid. English country houses, on the whole, remained private homes, unseen by and largely unknown to the public, and in many cases modernised or demolished by unappreciative owners. Country estates were used for private purposes which did not bode well for preservation; many were parcelled out for development, accommodating the suburban sprawl that typified the inter-war years.

Some progress was made in the 1950s and 1960s, but not much. A dollar-hungry economy slowly awoke to the economic value of tourism that had long been exploited successfully by the French, the Germans, the Italians and the

Swiss. The "listing" system, begun in 1947, theoretically extended protection from alteration or demolition to more buildings than were covered by the much older continental systems. Grants were finally made available in 1953 to country houses that opened to the public. The green-belt policy helped to contain urban sprawl. But old habits died hard.

Conservative Governments in the 1950s were reluctant to enforce these new restrictions on private property. Harold Macmillan, the minister responsible for listing, opined that only dying countries tried to preserve the symbols of their past. Although supposedly the kind of toff whose private ownership was so good for preservation, Macmillan advised his nephew, the Duke of Devonshire, to abandon Chatsworth to some modern, institutional use and egged on developers to destroy such London monuments as the Euston Arch.

The greatest damage inflicted by Macmillan and his brethren upon the heritage cause was the neutering of the listing system. Thousands of listed buildings were demolished in the 1950s and 1960s, especially in ancient town centres, where both politicians and the public felt "progress" must rule. Towns that had not been gutted by German bombs were destroyed instead by wreckers' balls: bang went much of medieval Gloucester and Georgian Bath. Towns that had been struck by the Germans were rebuilt for commerce, not continuity. Whereas the Dutch carefully reconstructed bombed-out Middelburg and the Germans extended the same reverence to towns including Nuremberg, Münster and Freiburg, such sentimentality was inconceivable in England, even for acknowledged tourist sites. A casual inspection of Canterbury, disfigured by inappropriate rebuilding in the 1950s, bears this out. Nikolaus Pevsner, usually an enthusiast for modern architecture, judged it disastrous.

Since the 1970s, we have witnessed a reaction against destruction, in favour of preservation. The heritage industry now blossoms. The reaction has not been confined to England — indeed, it is a pan-European phenomenon — but perhaps it has become more intense here. The myth would have it that this intensity reflects a profound and enduring love of the past.

A little history shows quite the reverse. We are now busy preservers precisely because we have been such busy destroyers for most of the past century. Macmillan's precept that only dying cultures preserve their past has been generally accepted, not only by governments, but also by the public that elects them. Progress and commerce, not a tender concern for heritage, have been the historic hallmarks of English culture for most of the last century. As the heritage wallahs lord it in the media during the summer tourist season, they should do well to reflect upon how shallowly rooted and how fragile is their present high status.

The author is among the contributors to *Preserving the Past: The Rise of Heritage in Modern Britain* (Alan Sutton).

Michael Gove on how the Defence Secretary was caught in the crossfire in his own backyard

Mr Portillo and his burghers

Michael Portillo has not prospered from property deals. From the privatisation of army homes, through the doubts about the future of Admiralty Arch and the Royal Naval College at Greenwich to the latest summer squall over the sale of his constituency headquarters to McDonald's, the Defence Secretary has found controversy written into every contract. Ironically, for a man with a taste for the fight, he has been defending himself in positions dug by others.

Nowhere is that more the case than in the matter of McDonald's, where he has been cast by his enemies as the ally of the fast-food chain in its development dispute with local residents — the villain of the piece in the battle of burgers v. burghers. Mr Portillo has handled the matter less than adroitly; however, this controversy, like the others, was not of his making.

The sale of the Ministry of Defence's married quarters was a policy whose genesis lay in Malcolm Rifkind's time as Secretary of State. Mr Portillo certainly defended it as a matter of ideological principle, but he was also driven by his desire to appear a team player — the role he has assumed since the agonies of last year's faltering performance during the leadership

election. Admiralty Arch's future and the fate of Greenwich were matters that lay within the competence, if that is the right word, of John Gummer and Virginia Bottomley as much as Mr Portillo. But he served as air raid shelter for his colleagues. Now Mr Portillo is taking the flak for colleagues closer to home but even less biddable than those he faces across the Cabinet table.

The decision to sell Mr Portillo's constituency office was, quite properly, taken by people who did not ask his permission, and were not obliged to. The office is the property of the local Conservative Association, an entirely autonomous body which chooses its parliamentary candidate and over which he, as its MP, has no formal control. The relation of Member to constituency party is rather like that of monarch to ministers. The MP may encourage, warn and advise, but the association is in law and in practice an entirely independent body.

Mr Portillo has had trouble with his supporters before, not least over the celebration at Alexandra Palace which marked his ten years in Parliament. Derided as an extravagant exercise in hubris before the first invitation had even been sent out, it was the idea of his association. The scale of the party made

Mr Portillo decidedly uneasy. Yet despite his concerns about the event, the association insisted on pressing ahead, because, then as now, its initiative would make money. Then, as now, he swallowed his doubts, although he could not hide his discomfort. The association made its money, but Mr Portillo paid the price.

Not only did he endure bad publicity, but his relations with his agent and some association officers became strained. Two of those most closely associated with the McDonald's deal — his agent, Malcolm Tyndall, and chairman, Lionel Zetter — were two of those most annoyed by events around the anniversary. Mr Tyndall, an unapologetic energetic and enterprising constituency agent, has long-term political ambitions and is an admirer of John Redwood.

Mr Tyndall's primary desire would have been to make money, but it is unsurprising that the prospect of a McDonald's restaurant in their midst might unsettle the residents of Winchmore Hill. Mr Portillo's constituents prize respectability, and Southgate is the spiritual home of the privet hedge.

Mr Portillo has been criticised by colleagues for going to a residents' meeting to listen to complaints and saying that Cabinet collective re-

sponsibility prevented him taking a stand. True, he did not need to go, and might have been better advised to stay out of the issue than to sit on so uncomfortable a fence. The minister's friends are convinced, however, that he could not have ignored a request to hear his constituents' concerns. As the Government's duty minister this week, his job was to stay in the limelight.

Some of his constituents, irked by his refusal to order his association to change its mind, may have been further irritated by the suggestion that Mr Portillo was, privately, *parti pris*. The McDonald's brand of enterprise is of the sort that Mr Portillo approves. His personal connection with the political consultant Geoffrey Tucker, whose clients include McDonald's, was mentioned in *The Times* yesterday. But it is a rare creature in the Westminster jungle who has not enjoyed some sort of association with Mr Tucker. McDonald's, with Mr Tucker's help, has been assiduous in courting ministers and MPs, but neither he, nor Mr Portillo, acted in the Enfield Southgate transaction.

This storm has overshadowed what had been until recently a good summer for the Defence Secretary. The stumbles of last year had been forgotten after two palpable hits.

His capacity to win the argument, and win over doubters, ensured that the privatisation of married quarters went ahead. More important, in a straight fight with Kenneth Clarke on defence spending, he secured the settlement the Forces wanted. The skill with which he fought those high political battles has confirmed him as a powerful player at the Cabinet table.

But an over-attention to high politics may have hurt Mr Portillo. He has remarked in the past that one of the pieces of writing which has had the greatest influence on his politics is the preface to *The Impact of Labour* by his former tutor, Maurice Cowling. There Mr Cowling defines high politics as a "rhetoric and manoeuvre", and the political system as "fifty or sixty politicians in conscious tension with one another".

Mr Portillo has shown that he can deploy rhetoric to win activist hearts and manoeuvre in Whitehall to win departmental battles. But the tension of which he must now be conscious, if he is to reach the level for which his talents equip him, is not with the circle of sixty at the top but the grassroots in his backyard.

Coming out of my shell

Thanks to the Newbury constabulary I now know quite a lot about snails

A week or two ago, *Times* readers (to say nothing of the *Times* writers) opened the paper to find a most remarkable photograph. Well over a hundred men, all wearing flak-jackets, and nearly half of them being police, were surrounding a giant earth-mover, clearly the target, though what the target was to be was anyone's guess.

Yellings and screamings, and of course gleeful rubbings of hands together (ringing up the usual hopes that a leg or two might be broken), made clear that the Animal Liberation Front and other Single Issue Fanatics were on the prowl, or would be shortly. But so crazy with their daft beliefs are they, they go on howling and prancing even when they have got precisely what they asked for.

Yes, of course, to start with it was yet more of "Down with the Newbury bypass", but some of them had looked about them and seen a different horizon, and for a moment the bypass was forgotten, because they had turned their eyes on a sight which must have given them not only pleasure but the warmth of wonder and indeed a touch of humility. They had discovered that the hundred policemen were there not only for the bypass and the fighting, but also for the tiniest and slowest creature in Christendom — a snail.

Yes, someone had discovered that er... a nest? a slither? a flock? a gaggle? a slowness? — well, a lot of the rarest snails in this country would be crushed and be seen no more, if the Wicked Bypass made its way. But the Wicked Bypass was not so wicked as it looks, and — believe it, readers — a thousand square metres of the richest earth and grass are to be cut out and reverently put down again in another place, lest the snails go (albeit not very quickly) to nothing but a lot of dry, thin grass.

But when I said that the wowsers are so crazy with their daft beliefs that they go on howling and prancing even when they have got what they asked for, I was wrong. For a mere

they asked for, it was true: they are going to have a thousand square metres of their own, and their spokesman whines "There is little chance the snails will survive in their new habitat."

Can you think of any country other than ours which would stop the work of a hundred policemen and security guards to take care of a line of snails? (Yes, France. But they would only be wanting them to eat.) That said, will somebody tell me why the snail in this story is called the "Desmoulin's Whorl"? True, Camille Desmoulin was one of the most striking and savage figures in the Revolution, and although he was a journalist, he had to write all his speeches, because he had a very powerful stammer.

So I looked up "Snails" in an encyclopaedia, and in contrast to Abigail and Heloise you will remember that they "read no more that day". I read voraciously from morning to night, wondering to myself what the world were to be found in the humble and tiny home of the snail? I didn't. So I went to the expert, and had a wonderful day. To start with, the snail breathes. There are two groups, and

one of these is characterised by a single pair of non-retractile tentacles, with the eyes at the base — the members of the other group have two pairs of retractile tentacles, with the eyes at the summit of the upper pair. Snails are almost exclusively vegetable feeders, and are provided with cutting upper jaws and a rasping ribbon or radula — the latter may be distinct, but snails are often hermaphrodites... it is a beautiful crystalline body... which is ejected during copulation... the garlic snail (*Vitica alliaria*) emits a peculiar odour when disturbed...

Now, most of us — yes, including me — would at first make fun of the snail. It is the slowest creature in the world, a few crumbs for him would be a banquet; but when I think of this surprising and intricate creature, I stop smiling and start to wonder. For if a mere



snail is so intriguing, what shall we say if we go on to feathered creatures? I turn to the birds, knowing well that I am just as ignorant of birds as of snails. But that is the point: I am here to learn. And my tutor (the *Britannica*) has started well, as my eyebrows show:

The red jungle fowl, the mallard duck and the greyling, were the ancestors of the domestic chicken, the duck and the barnyard goose.

Now I would have instantly reversed that list, and swear that the domestic chicken had been laying eggs since the world started. But if I make a fool of myself with the eggs, be assured that I will be a much bigger fool with the birds. But remember what I am about: again and again, I want to understand. When all this started I knew nothing — nothing — about snails. You may say who cares to know about snails? But that is the whole thing: when I discovered the workings of the snail, I wanted to discover more and more things — things that millions of other people have known for years. The truth, the terrible truth, is that everything I

know, I have got from the bottom of the ladder.

And that is why I was so transfixed when that snail became an entire page of snails. And I am also going to be transfixed when I come among the birds. Yes, I am ignorant as that — that being

The bird "song", an auditory signal, is used to attract mates, warn off rivals, alert other birds to danger, and in the case of young birds with their parents, beg for food... materials for lining can consist of sticks, leaves, algae, rootlets, small stones, dirt, mud, and animal materials like horsehair, snakeskin, or feathers. Except for mound-builders, all birds incubate their eggs, with incubation varying from 11 to 30 days.

Yes, but what about the rest of us? Don't you tell me that I am the only ignoramus in the business. You see, this whole story is to show our vast world and its workings on the one hand, and its parallel ignorance on the other. Take the most familiar form: I never learnt to drive (happy me!), but most of my friends did and do. Very well, suppose the car breaks down, spluttering, and finally falls silent? How many drivers are there who —

if their car has broken down — can fix it? I offer a guess: one in thirty. One in fifty? The gentleman at the back, do I hear One in a hundred?

I do not know how the Internet works, and I am too old now to learn. But what about the millions and millions like me, who can just about poke around in the bowels of the mystery? I wasn't joking when I said that the snail had opened my eyes, and to prove it, I take, quite at random, the octopus. Did you, dear reader, know that the size of the octopus runs from 2 in across (the smallest) to 18 in (the largest)? And did you know that the octopus has a large head, contractile arms, and a mouth that has a pair of sharp, horny beaks and a file-like organ for drilling shells and rasping away flesh?

And now, here I am, well struck in years, and there are thousands of things I do not know and now never shall. Come, it's not so bad: there are many people who — tut, tut — know nothing at all about snails, whereas I now know quite a lot about them. And here I am, halfway through snakes; indeed I already know what a reticulated python is. That once would have been a joke. Not now.

Among thieves

BURGLARS have raided the London home of the late Sir Robert Stephens, favourite thespian of the Prince of Wales, and stolen the insignia of the Knight Bachelor presented to him by the Queen last year.

The theft was discovered by his widow, Patricia Quinn, when she returned from a holiday in Provence. Fortunately, little else was stolen, but Patricia is beside herself with anguish at the loss

of her most precious memento. "They took the video and a couple of other unimportant items, but they have also taken the gong," she says. "It is the maddest sort of burglary. It was horrible when I discovered it had gone. I just felt dreadful that I hadn't got it in the bank."

"I do not want to sound like a sad sack or appear as the robbed widow, but I feel guilty and wretched about it. It's not as if it's worth much to whoever took it."

Sir Robert, whose baleful Lear for the RSC was regarded as the finest performance of a generation, was desperately proud of the gong. He wore it throughout a lunch at the Saville Club after the presentation ceremony. Described by his friend Dave Allen at his memorial service as "an outrageous flirt, a fierce drinker, a spectacular smoker and a great improviser of Shakespeare's words", he enjoyed a broad church of friends — as his memoirs, which will be launched in paperback this month, testify. But he would have been appalled by these common thieves.



Proud Sir Robert with gong

Despite the floods in Folkestone which destroyed houses and...

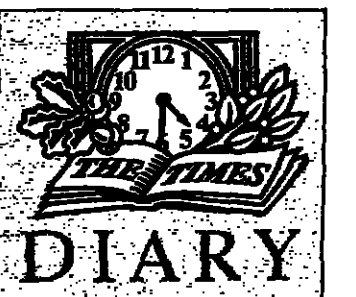
dered many of the town's good people homeless, groundsmen at the racecourse are concerned at the parched state of the turf for today's racing. "We're watering the track," said a spokesman. "Folkestone may have been flooded, but the course can soon dry out."

Clap trap

AS THE Conservatives limber up for their conference in October, an extraordinary allegation has surfaced concerning last year's jamboree at the Winter Gardens in



"Can I have a 320,000"



Blackpool. A Tory supporter who works for the party claims that technicians organised "canned applause" for some of the speakers at the conference last year. He says that electricians wiring up special effects before the conference last year told him about the ruse.

The party flatly denies any suggestion of helping along the flag-waving party faithful. But my informant insists that Brian Mawhinney and Gillian Shephard were assisted by recorded clapping. I'm not the sort to take sides on this, but the Tories must be considering the need for help this year.

Jackie-000

AFTER the success of *Elizabeth: A Biography of Her Majesty the Queen*, serialised in *The Times*, Sa-

royalty. Viking Penguin has just paid around £300,000 for her latest project, the story of Jackie Kennedy Onassis.

The publisher stresses that *America's Queen* will be "frank", and will examine the motives of her marriages. Sarah plans to milk her aristocratic connections for material — she is married to Lord Bangor, whom she quaintly calls Sausages.

Laborious

SENIOR staff at the Treasury are vexed about the lack of disciplinary action taken against Helen Goodman, the 37-year-old author of a colourful report which proposed



privatising the welfare state.

Her anger does not focus on her hopes of becoming a Labour MP. Instead, the stuffed shirts believe that she should be disciplined for bringing the Treasury's integrity into question.

They say she lied — first informing the Treasury that she wasn't seeking to be adopted for Labour in Barnsley, and then, only when the game was up, admitting that she was. "The worst possible calumny," harrumphs one of them. "A month since the incident and still her fate appears to be undecided."

Dancing queen

THE VIGOROUS parry animal in Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is revealed in a biography of her chum Sir Frederick Ashton, the great choreographer who died in 1988, due out this autumn. Ashton was so at ease with her that she would let him take "doggie bags" of leftovers away from dinners he shared with her.

But his biographer, Julie Kavanagh, says that she really let her hair down at Sandringham once during a musical evening with Ashton, who at one point "got up suddenly, as if injected with new life."



Ashton: hats off

with Rostropovich at the piano, performed an unforgettable routine, with the 88-year-old Queen Elizabeth "doing a sort of mock belly-dance", using the chiffon sleeves of her dress as a yashmak and Ashton throwing himself at her feet at the end.

Handwritten signature and date: "J. M. 1996"



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 15: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Princess Royal.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Catherine Cockburn, dramatist, London, 1679; Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne, songwriter, Gask, Perthshire, 1766; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, Goultburn, New South Wales, 1865; T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), Tremadoc, 1888; George Heyer, historical novelist, London, 1902; Houari Boumediene, President of Algeria 1965-78, Guelma, 1932.

DEATHS: Thomas Fuller, scholar, London, 1661; Ramakrishna, teacher and writer, Calcutta, 1886; Robert Bunsen, chemist, Heidelberg, 1899; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Verona, 1916; "Babe" Ruth, baseball player, New York, 1948; Douglas Hogg, 1st Viscount Hailsham, Lord Chancellor 1928-29 and 1935-38, Sussex, 1950; Louis Jovet, actor, Paris, 1951; Irving Langmuir, physicist, Falmouth, Massachusetts, 1957; Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist, Lakeville, Connecticut, 1959; Selman Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, Nobel laureate 1952, Hyannis, Massachusetts, 1973; Elvis Presley, singer and actor, Memphis, Tennessee, 1977; John George Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada 1957-63, 1969. The Peterloo massacre took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, 1819. Cyprus became an independent republic, 1960.

Birthdays today



Trevor McDonald, the broadcaster, is 57 today

Mr Bruce Beresford, film director, 56; the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, 70; Miss Ann Chant, chief executive, Child Support Agency, 51; Sir Philip Dowson, President, Royal Academy, 72; Mr George Galway, 61; Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, 62; Miss Katharine Hamnett, fashion designer, 49; Madonna, singer, 37; Sir Donald Maitland, civil servant and diplomat, 74; Mr Tom Mascher, publisher, Jonathan Cape, 63; Mr John Standing, actor, 62; Miss Helen Storey, fashion designer, 37; Professor W. S. C. Symmes, pathologist, 79; Mr Jeff Thomson, cricketer, 46; Mr Arthur Walsh, former chairman, Northern Telecom Europe, 70; Sir Jack Wellings, former chairman, The 600 Group, 79; Professor Brian Wolledge, Emeritus Professor of French, London University, 92.

Latest wills

Lady Cayzer, of Walsham-Le-Willows, Suffolk, left estate valued at £5,491,896 net. She left her estate mostly to relatives.

Sir Charles John Hanson, of Shelfanger, Diss, Norfolk, left estate valued at £374,392 net.

Lady (Elspeth Anne) Winder, of Oxford, left estate valued at £534,129 net.

Lady (Miriam) Hubbard, of Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, left estate valued at £441,814 net.

Michael Niven, of Dalston, Carlisle, left estate valued at £1,153,486 net. He left his estate mostly to his relatives. Cyril Woodruff, of Hyde, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,034,329 net. He left £25,000 to the Tameside and Glossop Hospice Trust, of Hyde, Cheshire.

James Mass, of Woolton, Liverpool, left estate valued at £2,445,645 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives. Christine Sanders, of Holland Park, London, left estate valued at £1,645,861 net. She left her estate to her father.

Helen Rosa Hamilton-Russell, of Headbourne, Worthy, Winchester, left estate valued at £1,921,328 net. She left £500 to the PCC St James Church, Newton Hall, Stockfield, Northumberland, £500 to the Rev Michael's Church, Low Warden, Northumberland.

Margaret Govier, of Sidmouth, Devon, left estate valued at £1,198,706 net.

Robert Cecil Gabriel, a retired Colonel in the Royal Engineers, of Bournemouth, Dorset, left estate valued at £3,046,540 net. He left £500 to the R.E. Association, £250 to the Dorset branch of the R.E. Association, £200 to the R.E. Dinner Club, £200 to the Madras Services Officers Trust, £1,000 to the Movement Control Officers Club.

Brian Joseph Lockhart, a retired lieutenant-colonel, of Maudersburg, Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £2,028,513 net. He left £500 to the Blues and Royals Serving Officers Trust, £1,000 to the Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms.

Albert White, of Harborne, Birmingham, left estate valued at £1,608,506 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Nora Thatcher, of Willenhall, West Midlands, left estate valued at £1,005,725 net. She left £10,000 to each of the following: Compton Hospice, Wolverhampton, £10,000 to the Memorial Foundation, £10,000 to each of the following: The Salvation Army, Field Street, Willenhall; The Salvation Army, Willenhall, West Midlands.

Cecil Rhodes, of Bedford, left estate valued at £1,477,064 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Frank Richard Walpole, of Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, left estate valued at £1,614,916 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Cecil Ernest Millard Fillmore, of Selly Park, Birmingham, left estate valued at £3,413,427 net.

He left £3,000 to St Mary's Hospice, £1,000 to the Rotary District, £1,000 to the Rotary Club of West Bromwich, £1,000 to each of the following: The Birmingham Royal National Institute for the Deaf, £1,000 to the Birmingham Royal National Institute for the Deaf, £1,000 to the Birmingham Royal National Institute for the Deaf, £1,000 to the Birmingham Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Other estates include (net before tax): Florence Mary Granley Hyde, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, £1,637,155.

Mrs Gertrude Kate Smyth, of East Croydon, Surrey, £504,749.

Mr Gilbert Wainwright, of Lyme Handley, Cheshire, £752,780.

Mr Charles Henry Merton Webb, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, £902,297.



Kate Eustace, a curator at the Ashmolean, eyes up Canova's *Ideal Head*, which is now on show at the museum in Oxford

Superb marble bust by Canova goes on show

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MARBLE head which was sculpted in 1817 by the Neo-Classical master Antonio Canova is being given pride of place at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford after being saved for the nation.

The *Ideal Head* is regarded as one of Canova's most refined interpretations of classical beauty. The museum matched the £746,000 paid by a foreign museum; a public appeal was boosted by £560,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Recognising the

head's importance, the Export Licence Reviewing Committee has given it an exceptional "starred" classification: less than a handful of works are put in that category each year.

An article on the sculpture in *The Times* inspired a private benefactor to come forward with £60,000. Brian Murgatroyd wanted to make the donation in memory of his wife, Angela, who had worked at the Ashmolean Library.

The bust, one of the best-preserved Canovas in the country, was a gift from the artist for help in retrieving Italy works of art removed by the

French during the Napoleonic Wars. His mission's success was partly dependent on the support of William Hamilton, the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who had previously been involved in bringing to England the Elgin Marbles and Rosetta Stone. Some two years after Canova was dispatched to Paris, he made the bust for Hamilton.

A Latin inscription reads: "To his friend for his singular kindness towards himself and his support in recovering from France the monuments of art."

The bust was owned by Hamilton's

descendants. They sold it last year at auction, where a dealer bought it for just under £400,000.

The museum's trust fund and the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, each provided £50,000 towards the purchase price. Some £15,000 came from members of the public.

Timothy Wilson, keeper at the Ashmolean, said that after cleaning and further research, an exhibition about the piece is planned for early next year. It is in such good condition that scholars hope to learn about Canova's original finishes.

The Leverhulme Trust

The trustees have approved the following awards to individuals under schemes administered by their research awards advisory committee:

Grants
A J Adelow, PhD, Lecturer, Heriot-Watt University
The vulnerability of single historic yield estimates.
L J Banks, BA, Self-employed artist
Italy as a source of inspiration.

C R Byrne, PhD, Lecturer in Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Manchester
Molecules that control hair length.

M E Cain, PhD, Faculty Research Fellow, University of Birmingham
Private policing in the Caribbean.

Sir Alec Chalmers, PhD, Formerly Chancellor, University of Glasgow
Editing my Treasury diary for 1964-69.

A J Chepstow-Lusty, PhD, Research Assistant, Cambridge University
Overlapping human/chimpanzee plant usage in Tanzania.

P R Collett, DPhil, Senior Research Officer, University of Oxford
The evolution of American gestures.

P A Cowell, PhD, Visiting Fellow, Silsoe College, Cranfield University
Traction dynamics of working equines.

R A Crowson, DSc, formerly

Senior Lecturer in Zoological Taxonomy, Glasgow University
Phylogenetic relations of Byrrhidae, Nosodendridae, Trachypachidae.

S Cunningham, PhD, Lecturer, Glasgow Caledonian University
Electron behaviour in nanostructures.

D Dumbbar, PhD, Lecturer, University of Wales, Swansea
New techniques in quantum field theory.

D Field, PhD, Reader in Physical Chemistry, University of Bristol
Electrons and molecules in space.

F M Heidensohn, BA, Professor of Social Policy, Goldsmiths College, University of London
Policing Europe: studying the new European network.

R A Kemp, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Royal Holloway, University of London
Micromorphology of Argentinian loess-paleosol sequences.

R D King, PhD, Professor of Social Theory and Institutions, University of Wales, Bangor
The proliferation of super-maximum security custody.

N Kollerstrom, PhD, Self-employed Science Historian
The reception of Newton's 1702 lunar theory.

O J H A Logan, Photographer
Mission dialogues and metaphors.

A A Marsden, PhD, Lecturer,

The Queen's University of Belfast
Testing a theory of musical computing.

J H Merkin, PhD, Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Leeds
Reaction-diffusion waves in ionic chemical systems.

S D Mobbs, PhD, Professor of Atmospheric Dynamics, University of Leeds
Measurement of the drag on South Georgia.

A S Morreau, BA, Writer and Broadcaster
"Emanuel Feuermann Remembered": a biography.

M E O'Carroll, SND, PhD, formerly Secretary and Registrar, Heythrop College
An edition of Richard Fishacre's Sentence Commentary. Book IV.

G C Peden, DPhil, Professor of History, University of Stirling
The British Treasury and public policy, 1906-59.

Westby Percival-Prescott, DA (Edin) FHC, art historian, painter, conservator
A practical investigation of Old Master painting techniques.

C M Pond, DPhil, Reader in Biology, The Open University
Cytokine-stimulated lipolysis in mammalian adipose tissue.

J S Pym, PhD, Professor, University of Sheffield
The general theory of flows.

A S Rodger, DSc, Research Scientist, Natural Environment Research Council
Studies of travelling convec-

tion vortices in geospace.
A J Russell, DPhil, Lecturer, University of Durham/University College Stockton
Ethnic identity and the Nepalese diaspora.

D B Saunders, DPhil, Reader in History, University of Newcastle
Russian social history, 1801-1917.

N J Saunders, PhD, Visiting Research Fellow in Archaeology, Southampton University
Completion of site inventory in southwestern Trinidad.

Y R Shashoua, BSc, Conservation Scientist, British Museum
Conservation and stabilisation of ceramic objects.

N Spencer, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Institute of Archaeology, Oxford University
A survey of the Madra Cay Delta, Altinova.

P Stirling, DPhil, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Kent
Turkish villagers industrially: a 40 year research archive.

D G K Taylor, DPhil, Lecturer in Theology, University of Birmingham
The Psalter commentary of Daniel of Salah.

Details of the other Leverhulme Trust awards (Emeritus Fellowships and Study Abroad Studentships) will be published shortly.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Brian Shenton, Rector and Vicar, Reading St Mary w St Laurence, and Rural Dean of Reading: to be also Priest-in-charge, Reading St Matthew (Oxford).

Canon Peter Stannard, Principal of St Nicholas Theological College, Ghana: to be Team Rector, Shelf St Michael and Buttershaw St Aidan (Bradford).

The Rev John Twissleton, Vicar, St Luke, Coventry (Coventry): to be Area Missioner, Edmonton Area (London).

The Rev John Tyrrell, Vicar, St Barnabas, Darby Green (Winchester): to be Vicar, Christ Church, Chichester, same diocese.

The Rev Ruth Walker, Hon Curate, benefice and parish of West Swindon and The Lydiards: to be Assistant Curate (part-time), benefice and parish of St John the Baptist and St Andrew, Swindon (Bristol).

The Rev John Waller, Team Vicar, Watling Valley Team Minister (LEP): to be Team Rector, of that Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev William Watson, Priest-in-charge, Alvelly and Quat (Hereford): to be Chaplain (part-time), at Northern General and Weston Park Hospitals, Sheffield.

The Rev Captain Joel Waweru, CA, Assistant General Secretary, Church Army (Africa): to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Brannall Lane, Sheffield (Sheffield).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Burns and Miss W.E. Newton
The engagement is announced from Bermuda, of Alastair James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs I.D.M. Burns, of Cowden, Kent, and Wendy Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Newton, of Fingeringhoe, Essex.

Dr G.C. Cawley and Dr N.L.C. Talbot
The engagement is announced between Gavin, son of Mr John Cawley and Mrs Valerie Cawley, and Nicola, daughter of the late Mr Clive Talbot and of Mrs Talbot.

Mr R. Chessells and Miss I. Tasker
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Sir Tim and Lady Chessells, of Mark Cross, East Sussex, and Iona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney H. Tasker, of Lington Preston, Lancashire.

Mr M. Davies Jones and Miss V.S. Candlin
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. Davies Jones, of St Andrews, Eastbourne, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Candlin, of Meddown, Hildenborough, Kent.

Mr A.J. Findlay and Miss N.J. Phoenix
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr J.R. Findlay, of Carnell, Ayrshire, and Mrs J. Drysdale, of Ballis, Inverness-shire, and Norma, daughter of the late Mrs J.R. Phoenix, and of Mr J.R. Phoenix, of Crickhowell, Powys.

Mr A.J. Graham and Miss A.L. Rowling
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs John Graham, of Highgate, London, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rowling, of South Croydon, Surrey.

Mr I. Lymph and Miss V.J. Kurtz
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr and Mrs Terence Lymph, of Hartlepool, Teesside, and Victoria, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs John Kurtz, of Headington, Oxford.

Mr D.J. McIntyre and Miss T.J. Wright
The engagement is announced between Donald John, son of Mr and the late Mrs Donald McIntyre, of Braughley, Dundee, and Tanya, daughter of Mr Derek Wright, of Winchester, and Mrs Georgina Harvey-Wright, of St Cross, Winchester.

Mr J.D. Rockwell and Miss C.H. Fisher
The engagement is announced between John David, son of Mr Herbert Rockwell, of Boca Raton, Florida, USA, and Mrs Elen Schwartz, of Bequia, West Indies, and Clare Helen, daughter of the late Mr Michael Fisher and of Mrs Joanna Haslam, of High Winds, Storrington, West Sussex, and step-daughter of the late Mr Nigel Haslam.

Dr H.R. Smith and Dr L.K.V. Norman
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BMD'S: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Uphold the cause of the weak and the oppressed, and see right done to the afflicted and distressed. Rescue the weak and needy and save them from the clutches of the wicked. Psalm 82: 3, 4 (2023)

BIRTHS

ANDERSON - On August 14th, to Karen (née Wilson) and Nigel, a son, Isaac Ryan.

BECK - On 10th August, to Kate (née Miller) and David, a beautiful daughter, Theodore Phyllis.

BUTTLING-SMITH - On 16th May 1996, to Monica (née Turner) and Steven, a perfect baby girl, Fern Emma, born three months early, due today.

CALDER - On August 13th, to Clare (née Grooman) and Stuart, a son, Hugo Paul Stuart, a brother for Corbin and Lydia.

CASSELL - On 4th August 1996 at Jubilee Hospital, Belfast, to Mary (née Cassidy) and Paul, a daughter, Fiona Clare, a sister for Fiona, Ailie and Marc.

CHAYER - On 10th August 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Susan (née Stennor) and Stephen, a son, Anthony Charles Thomas.

CLARK - On August 10th 1996, to Katherine (née Smith) and Tim, a daughter, Gabriella Paimin Inda.

COLE - On 9th August, to Louise (née Jones) and Kevin, a son, Toby Peter Chalmers, a brother for Gemma.

CODR - On August 8th 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Karin (née McElaine) and Tim, a son, William John Leighton, a brother for Emily.

DEBICE - On August 13th, to George and Michael, a son, FAIRWEATHER - On 3rd August 1996, to Vicki (née Lander) and George, a daughter, Emily Charlotte.

BIRTHS

FARQUHARSON - On 8th August, to Catherine (née Selby) and Charles (née Houshorne) and Edward, a son, Alexander.

FURNESS - On 2nd August 1996, to Lindsey (née Duffy) and Peter, a daughter, Lucy, a sister for Lucy.

KELOCK - On August 13th 1996

NEWS

US-British relations at low point

President Clinton's support for Gerry Adams has left Anglo-American relations in their worst state since the war of independence, the former Secretary of State James Baker said.

Mr Clinton had also squandered American supremacy since the cold war, leaving other countries with the impression that he was weak and that his word was meaningless. "In private our allies say what they dare not admit in public: that America is no longer the world leader it was"..... Pages 1, 11

Boys dominate in A levels

Boys asserted their dominance at A level. Five took six grade A passes and boys' schools took most of the top places in the first results table. In recent years, however, girls have been achieving record scores at GCSE and closing the gap at A level..... Pages 1, 4

Internet porn

Scotland Yard has launched a drive to clean up the Internet and told companies providing access to block hard porn outlets or face prosecution..... Page 1

Tory deal attacked

A businessman claimed that Tories in the Enfield Southgate constituency of Michael Portillo had reneged on a deal to sell him the party headquarters..... Page 2

German row

Baroness Thatcher maintained a determined silence over remarks about the Germans which had provoked a "frightful row" between herself and Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister..... Page 2

Rowers rescued

Two Norwegian rowers, feared drowned at sea when their tiny boat capsized in fierce weekend storms, survived for five days by eating a raw seagull..... Page 3

Breakfast Times

Who can tell Kellogg's corn flakes from Tesco's? Not many people, a blind taste test proved in the offices of The Times..... Page 5

Rail warning

Passengers are paying the price for the break-up of British Rail, according to an industry watchdog. It says more services are running late and much-needed investment in rolling stock is grinding to a halt..... Page 6

Fighting on the beaches

A touch overdressed for a Benidorm beach in high season, Glenda Jackson MP picked her way unsteadily through a labyrinth of gleaming bodies, bare breasts and astonished expressions. The much-vaunted Labour campaign had begun. "Enough of Tory lies," she intoned. "Vote Labour. We'll get Britain back together again"..... Page 1

Peaceful conquest

Roman Britain: proud Lincoln is the perfect demonstration that in a large part of England the Roman military occupation was brief and that peaceful colonisation lasted far longer..... Page 8

Minor accolade

A businessman, who owns what he claims is the finest Morris Minor in the world, paid nearly £26,000 for the original drawings of the classic car..... Page 9

Cyprus fear

Cyprus was bracing itself for another outbreak of violence as mourners gather for the funeral of the Greek Cypriot killed by Turkish soldiers..... Page 10

Speech interruption

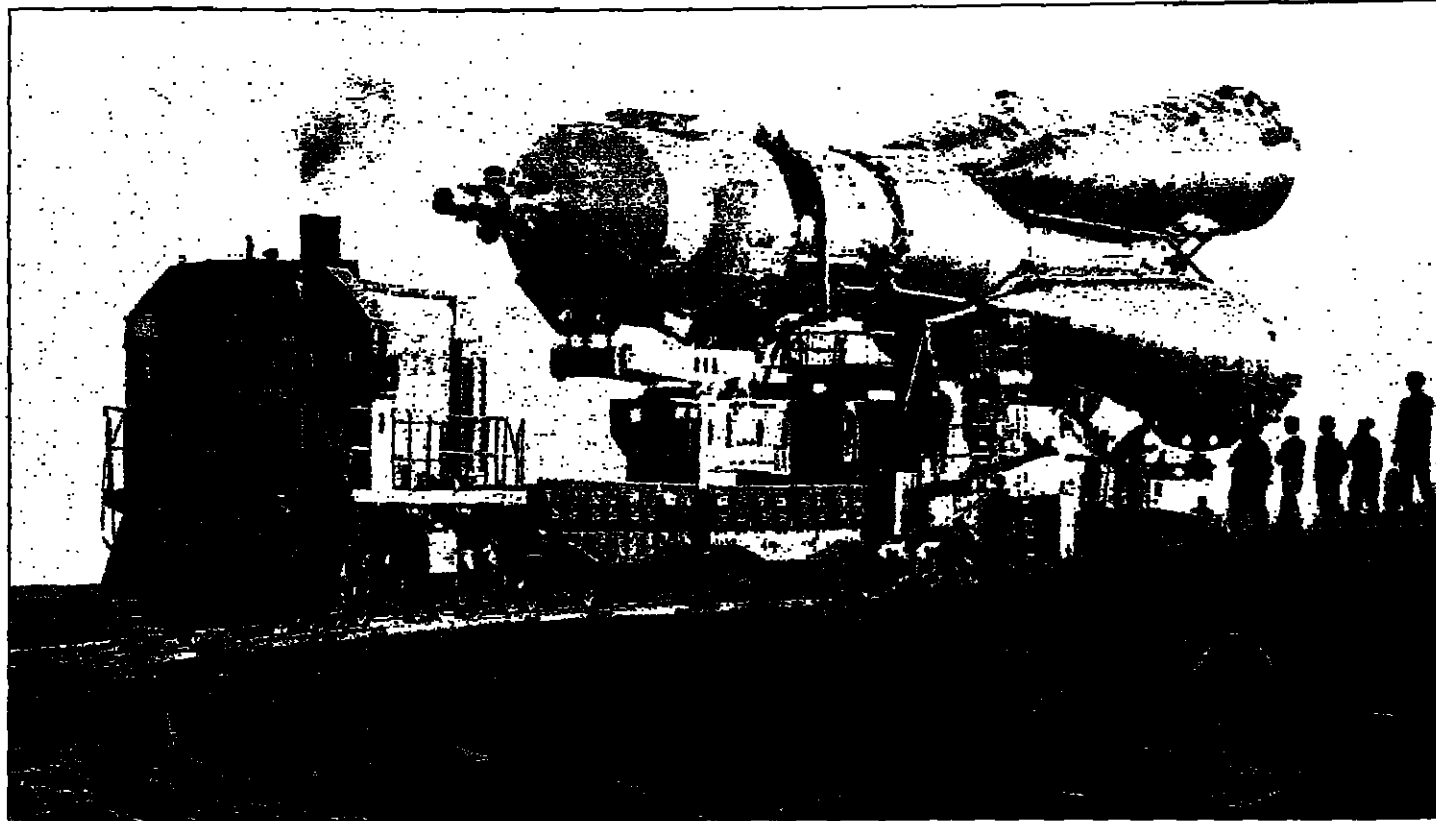
Preparations for what was widely viewed as the biggest speech of Bob Dole's life were upset when his most inspirational speech writer walked out..... Page 11

Women smokers risk

Women smokers are more likely to develop lung cancer and they seem to need fewer cigarettes to do so, said a report commissioned by the Australian College of Physicians..... Page 12

Grozny plotter

Shamil Basayev, the Chechen commander who masterminded the raid on Grozny, said his underground bunker nesting a fresh wound and plotting his next move..... Page 13



The rocket Soyuz TM is hoisted to a take-off position at Baikonour ready for Cassiopean Mission, a Franco-Russian space flight

BUSINESS

Copper: The Securities and Investments Board launched a consultative document on reform of the London metals market in the wake of the huge losses suffered by Sumitomo..... Page 21

Economy: The annual inflation rate crept up to 2.2 per cent in July from 2.1 per cent in June. Rising house prices overshadowed a big drop in seasonal foods..... Page 21

Thom EMI: Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of Thom EMI, exercised a large bundle of options on shares days before the company demerger..... Page 21

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 7.1 to 3837.4. Sterling was unchanged at 84.8 after a fall from \$1.5506 to \$1.5504 but a rise from DM2.3005 to DM2.3030..... Page 24

SPORT

Football: The influx of foreign players looks likely to continue as Manchester United show interest in Miguel Nadal, the Barcelona defender..... Page 40

Crickets: Courtney Walsh, the Gloucestershire fast bowler, took six for 22 as Yorkshire tumbled to 166 all out, putting a dent in their championship hopes..... Page 35

Golf: There was a cosmopolitan look about the top of the leaderboard on the opening day of the Westabix Women's British Open at Woburn..... Page 40

Equestrianism: Michael Whitaker's chances of winning the Derby at Hickstead increased when he accepted the ride on his brother's Derby specialist horse, Gammon..... Page 34

ARTS

Edinburgh Nights: Two fine productions, Chris Hannan's *Shining Souls* and David Greig's *The Architecture*, provide an enlightening insight into troubled Scottish urban life..... Page 30

Tuneful trio: At the Tricycle in Kilburn three talented female singers star in a superb jazz cabaret, *Three Ms Behaving*..... Page 30

High Times: The 13-year-old LeAnn Rimes is being hailed as a country singer prodigy. Her debut album, *Blue*, is currently at No 3 in the American pop chart..... Page 31

Pop on Friday: Among this week's new records is an album from Cyprus Hill, a compilation soul CD with Smokey Robinson and Al Green, and a single from the 17-year-old singer Aaliyah..... Page 32

FEATURES

Valerie Grove talks to David Blunkett. "I never want anyone to say I didn't do the job well because I couldn't see"..... Page 15

Tug of war: The House of Lords ruled that Salome Stopford could not keep ten-year-old Sifiso Mahlangu and he should return to his parents in South Africa. Now Mrs Stopford and Sifiso's father, tell their stories..... Page 14

Suspicious of success: As the results become known, why are there suggestions that modular A levels are less demanding than linear A levels?..... Page 28

Intellectual assault course: Pupils at a summer school specialising in Greek learnt as much of the language in two weeks as they did in two school terms..... Page 28

On their mettle: Initiative, leadership and team skills are missing in many school leavers, say business executives..... Page 28

THE PAPERS

The continuing violence among immigrant gangs in Turin is testimony to the gravity of the problem of controlling both illegal immigration into Europe and the criminal activity which breeds off it. Stricter frontier controls are no substitute for a policy which discriminates in favour of immigrants who are willing to share rights and duties in our communities..... La Repubblica

OBITUARIES

The Rev Christopher Gray, vicar, Sergia Celibidache, conductor, Florence Elliott, matron of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, Alec Sorrell, statistician..... Page 19

LETTERS

Reform of the gun control laws: celebrating children's literature: the complexities of ME..... Page 17

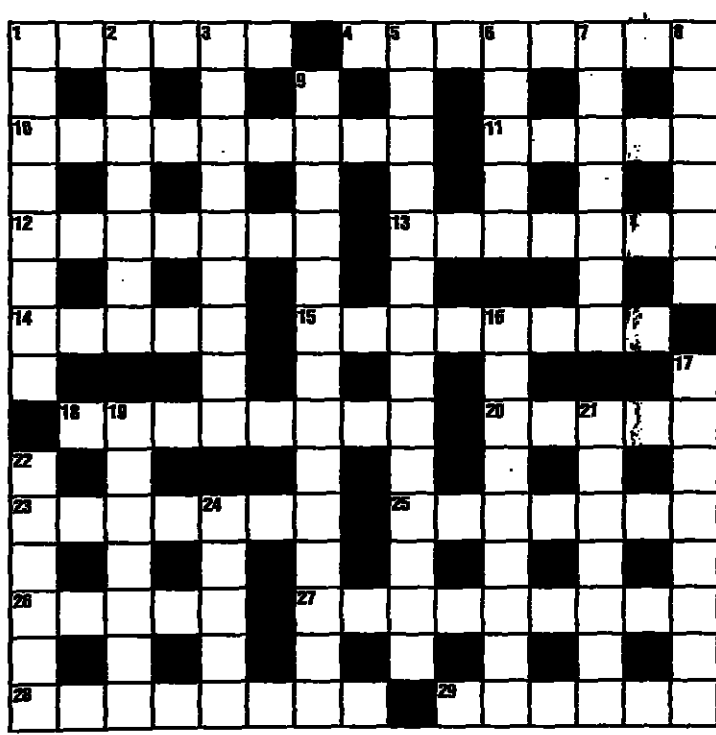


IN THE TIMES

FIRM AND FRUITY
Kate Muir on three women and some marvellous bouquets at a French vineyard

CUTTING COSTS
How to pay less for your mortgage and cut your credit card rate

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,248



- ACROSS
- Sudden onset of snow producing white water (6).
 - Volunteer about to kill criminal (8).
 - Inflame quarrel about cashier (3,4,2).
 - False return admitted by public transport (5).
 - Poet regarded as genius by sovereign (7).
 - Mistake that may give rise to another slip? (7).
 - It generates waves - a large number - in port (5).
 - Openings under bridge that may get blocked during cold spell (3).
 - Not caught in motorcade moving at a reasonable pace (8).
 - Composer drank almost to the end (5).
 - Walked stiffly out, in a way (7).
- DOWN
- Barrie's play transposed for another girl (8).
 - Safe man gave signal from bridge (7).
 - Specialty emphasise campaign on environment (5,4).
 - It makes it difficult to lift cold meat (6,3).
 - Fast days not observed in Nov. (5).
 - Understand almost everything about some computers (7).
 - Take up again "The Sad End of Uncle Remus" (6).
 - Short history in novel form (7,3,4).
 - Countered tangled reeds round lake (9).
 - Affirmed again the country is in debt (8).
 - After leading soldier goes out, military exercise works (7).
 - Throw out beetle (7).
 - Sanctuary unknown in squalid neighbourhood (6).
 - Composition's harmonic appreciated by audience (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,247

COUNTER MACHETE
TUNING FORK
CALORIFIC DENSITY
EAGLE
DRAWN RACEHORSE
A N I M L O G I S T
ANGINAPASTORIS
O S I R E S
PRIME MINISTERS
T N O C E A R
INFLUENZA ALIBI
C U L L I T M A
INERT PRICELESS
A C R I S T I N G
NITRATE MAESTRO

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Area	Notes
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	733
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
National motorways	736
West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	739
North-west England	740
North-east England	741
Scotland	742
Northern Ireland	743
AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheapest rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	744
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AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheapest rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	749
AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheapest rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.	750

TRAFFIC & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Bristol Weather Centre, 16°C (70°F); lowest day temp: Fair Isle, 1°C (34°F); highest rainfall: Trier, 10mm; lowest rainfall: Trier, 0mm.

For the latest AA roadwatch information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be predominantly dry with sunny periods, but there may be some mist or fog patches around at first. Northern England will be cloudier with some patchy drizzle in the North West and perhaps the odd shower developing later. Warm.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with some light rain or drizzle at times, chiefly in the West, but brighter weather will spread from the North West later. Temperatures mostly near normal.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, NW England, Central N, NE England: dry with sunny periods, but there may be some mist or fog patches around at first. Wind mainly southerly, light. Max 25C (77F).

Lake District, Isle of Man: rather cloudy, with some patchy drizzle at times. Perhaps an isolated shower developing later. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 20C (68F).

Edinburgh, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: rather cloudy, some light rain or drizzle for much of the day. Wind will be southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 20C (68F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth: rather cloudy but mostly dry. Becoming brighter later. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 16C (61F).

Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy start, some rain or drizzle in places. Becoming brighter and mainly dry from the northwest. Wind southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 16C (61F).

N Ireland: cloudy, some rain or drizzle at times. Becoming brighter in the afternoon, perhaps with some sunny intervals later. Wind south or southwesterly, light to moderate. Max 18C (64F).

Outlook: dry, sunny spells and quite warm. Rain later in North West.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=drizzle shower, du=dust, f=fog, g=gale, h=hail, l=light, m=mist, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, st=strong, t=thunder

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AROUND BRITAIN

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Nicholas takes
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY AUGUST 16 1996

SIB shake-up of metals market likely

By ROBERT MILLER

A REVIEW of the London metals market launched yesterday by the Securities and Investments Board could lead to fundamental reforms to the way metals are traded and dealers are regulated.

The move comes in the wake of the \$1.8 billion loss by Sumitomo in copper trades. But the City's senior watchdog is expected to meet fierce opposition to rule changes from market insiders.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB, said the review was timely not just because of Sumitomo's losses but because users of the London Metal Exchange needed to be reassured that it was properly regulated, with all customers, regardless of size or financial clout, being treated fairly. "If there is bad business taking place we want to scare it away," he said.

Until Sumitomo Corporation announced in June that it had lost \$1.8 billion from the alleged unauthorised trading of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former chief copper trader, the LME, whose chairman is Raj Bagri, had been allowed a degree of regulatory latitude



Bagri: LME chairman

not extended to the more mainstream equity and derivatives trading.

Professional market users had argued that only professionals, including copper-producing countries such as Chile and China, used the exchanges. Therefore, the tough regulations that applied to other parts of the London market should not be extended to metals. Copper producers, for example, might not want to reveal business deals on the LME open market so dealt instead in the private Over-the-Counter (OTC) market.

The SIB review has to balance the needs of large traders and producers as well as the needs of the smaller dealers and intermediaries.

Sir Andrew refused to rule out the possibility that the professional method of regulation hitherto extended to the LME and OTC markets might be radically altered as a result of the consultation process, which ends on October 15.

The copper investigations involve civil and criminal prosecutors in the UK, United States and Japan, as well as a number of other jurisdictions, such as Guernsey in the Channel Islands. In the UK alone, the Securities and Futures Authority has been investigating the copper market since 1993, with the Serious Fraud Office entering the ring in the wake of the Sumitomo announcement.

Last week the SFO executed search warrants on the homes of Charlie Vincent and Ashley Levett, whose Winchester Commodities Group sparked the original SFA investigation. Codeco, the Chilean Government's copper-trading arm, complained that it had been the victim of an alleged \$200 million fraud. Winchester, which dealt extensively with Codeco and Sumitomo, has denied any wrongdoing and pointed out that all its trades were properly authorised.

David King, chief executive of the LME, yesterday outlined the difficulties of cross-border regulation. He said that Mr Hamanaka had been interviewed over his copper trading through London, at the SIB's offices in 1991. Sumitomo was alerted immediately to the LME and the SIB's concerns. "We did everything we could, including alerting the relevant authorities in Japan," he said. "We had similar dialogues in 1993 and 1995."

The 75-page SIB consultative document outlines a series of "signposts" that it hopes will elicit responses from buyers and sellers of metals on the LME and OTC.

Pennington, page 23

Inflation static despite increase in house prices

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SHARP summer sale discounts and a big fall in seasonal food prices helped to keep Britain's underlying inflation rate unchanged in July despite rising house prices.

The annual rate of headline inflation edged up to 2.2 per cent from 2.1 per cent in June, despite a 0.4 per cent fall in prices, the first monthly decline since January. The annual rate rose because prices declined by a larger margin last year.

But the underlying inflation rate, the measure favoured by the Government, which City forecasters thought might rise to 3 per cent, held steady at 2.8 per cent. In the month, prices fell 0.5 per cent.

This was reassuring news for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who has come under unusually fierce fire from the Bank of England for his decision to cut base rates by a quarter point in June. Yesterday's data makes it less likely that the Bank will listen to the Chancellor's call last week for a pre-emptive rise in rates to head off inflation.

The Office for National Statistics noted that summer sales discounts were even sharper than last year. Clothing and footwear prices plunged 4.9 per cent,

the biggest fall in any July since records began in 1948. Against a year ago, clothing and footwear prices are down 1.4 per cent, the largest annual fall since 1953.

The most dramatic price falls came in footwear prices. This may be related to the financial collapse of Facia, which had bought several of the best-known high street shoe shop chains. These have been holding closing down and stock clearance sales.

Seasonal food prices were depressed by bumper fruit crops at home. There were also price wars over non-seasonal items such as beef, bread and cereals.

The largest upward pressures on headline inflation came from housing costs and household services. The ONS said that its housing index rose 0.4 per cent this year compared with a fall of 0.3 per cent in July 1995, mainly because of rising house prices. There were increases in postal charges and cuts in telephone charges were not as steep as last year.

Some economists noted with concern that inflation in the service sector picked up to 2.6 per cent from a low of 2 per cent between April and May, largely because of an end to reductions in insurance charges.

Clean first half for Johnson



Cleaning up: Richard Zerney, chief executive, and Terry Greer, chairman of Johnson Cleaners, report first-half profits up 28.5 per cent to £9.2 million. The dividend rises 0.1p to 2.9p out of earnings up 10 per cent to 11.2p. Photograph by Peter Trivnor

Taxman puts 1066 family in bungalow

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE noble, if macabre, name of Pine-Coffin dates back to Norman times. But a complex, long-running dispute with the Inland Revenue has led the Pine-Coffin family to lose the estate they were given by William the Conqueror for their role in suppressing the Saxons. Lieutenant-Colonel

John Pine-Coffin has left his ancestral 2,000 acres near Bideford in Devon for a modest bungalow.

After the death of his father in 1978 Colonel Pine-Coffin sought capital transfer tax exemption on the estate by undertaking to keep Portledge with its mansion house and five listed buildings intact. He said: "The place was then in a 19th-century state. But I knew that you could make a go of it with dairy farming."

However, when he attempted to mortgage 90 per cent of the land to pay for the improvements and the £1.5 million bill for upkeep of the properties, the Inland Revenue informed him that this would be a breach of his

undertaking and that he would face a tax bill of 60 per cent of the value of the mortgaged land. Colonel Pine-Coffin said: "In what other business would you have to pay 60 per cent tax on borrowings?" The row continued for more than a decade, while Portledge languished.

In 1989, the Revenue finally ruled that land could be

mortgaged without breaching the undertakings.

But by this time Portledge had suffered from years of underinvestment. In May, the estate was sold.

Colonel Pine-Coffin, 75, whose family motto is *Tempestate Floresco* — in a storm I flourish — now intends to pursue the Revenue for compensation.

Southgate's £3m options profit

By ERIC REGULY

SIR Colin Southgate, chairman of the Thorn EMI music and rentals group, yesterday made a cash and paper profit of £3 million from exercising options on shares just days before the company demerges.

He made a cash profit of £1.25 million from exercising share options and selling shares. He is also sitting on a paper profit of £2 million from exercising other options in the company. The cash profit came a day after Sir Colin paid £1.27 million to exercise options granted to him in 1989 and 1993 on more than 140,000 shares. He sold the shares at £17.75.

Sir Colin also exercised options on 169,605 shares granted in 1986, 1987 and 1988 at a cost of around £1 million. Based on last night's share price of £17.89, down 1p, this stake is worth £3 million.

Simon Duffy, finance director, also converted share options into equity yesterday, exercising 112,000 options granted at 684p in 1992, and 42,750 options granted at 933p in 1993.

Thorn EMI's proposed demerger into separately listed music and rentals businesses will take effect on Monday, if, as expected, it receives shareholder approval at an



Southgate: valuable stake

Payphone injunction issued by High Court

By MORAG PRESTON

A TEMPORARY injunction was issued by the High Court yesterday to prevent BT's biggest payphone rival from using its traditional red telephone boxes.

New World Payphones has been halted from returning the much-loved K6 phone boxes to the streets until a full trial of the issues in October. BT has also been instructed not to erect any phoneboxes in those areas under discussion.

BT wanted Mr Justice Lightman to grant a permanent injunction against New World. But, after two hours of

out-of-court negotiations, Jeffrey Burke, QC, BT's counsel, said that it had been agreed that the two sides should stay "on equal footing" pending a full trial of the issues in October.

New World has bought 60 of the kiosks designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott and rejected by BT in 1985. It was to paint them green so as not to clash with the environment. BT says it is concerned that people would think that they were using a BT service.

Success symbols, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	2837.4	(+7.1)
Yield	4.07%	
FT-SE All share	1897.81	(+3.16)
Nikkei	20668.25	(-12.86)
New York		
Dow Jones	5665.04	(-1.84)*
S&P Composite	662.61	(+0.56)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(4%)
Long Bond	99 1/4%	(99%)
Yield	6.80%	(6.75%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)

STERLING

New York		
\$	1.5508*	(1.5494)
London		
\$	1.5506	(1.5505)
DM	2.3035	(2.3000)
FF	7.8707	(7.8611)
SP	1.6551	(1.6578)
Yen	167.35	(167.16)
E index	84.8	(84.8)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.4855*	(1.4896)
FF	5.0790*	(5.0875)
SP	1.2055*	(1.2096)
Yen	108.00*	(108.12)
\$ index	96.2	(96.2)

Tokyo close Yen 108.13

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Oct)	\$19.95	(\$20.05)

GOLD

London close	\$386.35	(\$386.45)
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Power play

Electricity companies are paying generators 10 per cent more than the market rate in deals the companies feel forced to accept to ensure security of supply. Page 22

Hanson profits

Hanson, the conglomerate that is splitting itself in four, raised nine month profits from £850 million to £1,480 million after counting in £608 million of profits from disposals. Page 23

Stay with us on business this Summer for at least 2 nights between 22 July and 5 September '96 (Sunday to Thursday) on our rack or corporate rates and we'll give you one weekend night FREE. With 78 hotels to choose from throughout the UK and Ireland, it's easy to see why we're number one for business travellers.

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0800 40 40 40
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- Company Notice -



General Accident plc

RESULTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE 1996

	6 Months to 30.6.96 Estimate £ million	6 Months to 30.6.95 Estimate £ million	1995 Year Actual £ million
Premium Income			
General Business	2,299	2,179	4,409
Long Term Business	851	826	1,508
Total	3,150	3,005	5,917
General Business Underwriting Result	(111)	(9)	(130)
Investment Income (net of interest paid)	266	240	515
Long Term Business Profits	46	34	79
Property Services Result	(7)	(8)	(16)
Employee Profit Sharing Schemes	194	257	448
Operating Profit Before Taxation	194	257	436
Realised Investment Gains	156	43	123
Profit before Taxation	350	300	559
Taxation	99	85	151
Profit after Taxation	251	215	408
Minority Interests	3	2	5
Preference Dividends	11	11	21
Net profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	237	202	382
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	26.9p	38.5p	66.5p
Earnings per Ordinary Share	49.3p	44.5p	82.8p
Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results			
U.S.A.	\$1.55	\$1.59	\$1.55
Canada	\$2.12	\$2.19	\$2.12

Notes

The results of the General Accident Group for the six months ended 30th June 1996, estimated and unaudited, are compared with those for the similar period in 1995. It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year. The results for the full year 1995 are also shown. These results do not comprise the statutory accounts for 1995 which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The Auditors have reported on the 1995 accounts; their report was unqualified and did not contain a statement under Section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

In order to reflect the results of all life operations, long term business profits now include the earnings of life services company, previously included under investment earnings. The 1995 comparatives have been adjusted accordingly.

Long term business premium income for the six months to 30th June 1996 included £170m arising from the acquisition of Provident Mutual on 1st January 1996 and long-term business profits benefited by a net £5m.

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS

	6 Months to 30.6.96 Premium Income £ million	6 Months to 30.6.95* Underwriting Result £ million	6 Months to 30.6.96* Premium Income £ million	6 Months to 30.6.95* Underwriting Result £ million
U.K.	801	13	773	95
U.S.A.	674	(79)	628	(50)
Canada	299	(13)	300	(18)
Asia-Pacific	216	(5)	193	(5)
Continental Europe	128	(11)	120	(11)
Other Overseas	99	(9)	91	(6)
London Market etc	82	(7)	74	(14)
	2,299	(111)	2,179	(9)

*at 30.06.95 exchange rates.

Commenting on the interim results, Bob Scott, General Accident's Group Chief Executive, said: "After the first quarter setback due to adverse weather, the strong recovery in our performance during the second quarter - which produced an operating profit before tax of £138m - has been driven by an encouraging all round performance. The headline profit of £194m at the half year compares favourably with the £257m achieved in 1995 considering the weather losses, which cost an additional £26m over the previous year.

"In the UK we continue to manage our business successfully in a trading environment that has become increasingly competitive. An excellent underwriting profit of £24m was achieved in the second three months of the year and both our personal and commercial business units traded profitably during the quarter.

"Our results in the United States were significantly affected by weather claims in both the first and second quarters and although further progress was achieved in our underlying performance this was more than offset by these increased weather losses. Canada has achieved an underwriting profit in the second quarter and an encouraging improvement at the half year.

"Our Asia-Pacific business also continues to perform very satisfactorily, with excellent results from both New Zealand and Asia.

"The contribution to profits from our long-term business is up by 35%, in line with our strategy of expanding our profit stream from life operations. The integration of the Provident Mutual business, acquired on 1st January this year, is progressing ahead of plan and after reorganisation costs is already making a contribution to profits.

"Investment earnings growth continued at a satisfactory level during the half year, reflecting positive cash flows.

"The actions we are continuing to take to strengthen our competitive position worldwide are producing positive results and the underlying performance of all our major business units is encouraging. General Accident views the future with confidence."

Bob Scott
Group Chief Executive
13th August 1996

DIVIDENDS

Ordinary Shares

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31st December 1996 of 11.4p per share (1995: 10.7p per share) costing £55m (£51m) payable on or after 1st January 1997 to ordinary shareholders on the Register of Members at close of business on 29th October 1996. (Ex dividend date 21st October 1996.)

The Directors propose to offer ordinary shareholders the opportunity to receive fully paid ordinary shares in the Company in lieu of the cash dividend.

Preference Shares

The dividends on the preference shares are payable as follows:-

The dividend on the 7 7/8% cumulative irredeemable preference shares of £1 each for the period 1st April 1996 to 30th September 1996 will be paid on 1st October 1996 in accordance with their terms to those shareholders on the Register relating to such shares on 4th September 1996. (Ex dividend date 27th August 1996.)

The dividend on the 8 7/8% cumulative irredeemable preference shares of £1 each for the period 1st July 1996 to 31st December 1996 will be paid on 3rd January 1997 in accordance with their terms to those shareholders on the Register relating to such shares on 3rd December 1996. (Ex dividend date 25th November 1996.)

LIFE BUSINESS

General Accident's life operations performed strongly and are continuing to make an increased contribution. Long term business profits were up 33% from £34m to £46m, including a contribution of £5m net of reorganisation costs from Provident Mutual, acquired on 1st January 1996. In order to reflect the results of all life operations, long term profits now include the earnings of the life services company, previously shown under investment earnings. The 1995 comparatives have been adjusted accordingly.

New business production in the UK remains very strong. New annual premiums doubled from £21m to £42m reflecting an increased contribution from pension sales which were up by 30% when compared with GA and Provident Mutual's combined volumes. In 1995, for the six months, new annual pension premiums accounted for 57% of new annual premium income, compared with only 19% in 1995 for GA Life. This is a very pleasing performance at a time of major reorganisation.

New single premium business was lower at £471m (1995: £559m) as 1995 benefited from the successful issue of single premium Guaranteed Distribution Bonds, which attracted £355m during that period. However the Portfolio Bond - GA Life's core single premium investment product - contributed £257m of single premiums in the first half of 1996, well up on the £83m contributed in the first half of 1995.

The reorganisation of the UK life and pensions business is close to completion and well ahead of plan following the acquisition of Provident Mutual and GA Life's competitive position has been enhanced by the lower cost base now being achieved.

NET ASSETS PER ORDINARY SHARE/WORLDWIDE SOLVENCY

	Current (as at 09.08.96)	31.12.95
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	657p	653p
Solvency Margin Worldwide	74%	77%

The net asset value of the group at 30th June 1996 was £3,355m, increasing to £3,415m as at 9th August 1996.

A copy of the interim announcement for 1996 can be obtained from:
The Secretary, General Accident plc, Pithead, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.

Electricity firms paying above rate for power

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY companies are paying about 10 per cent above the market rate for power in deals with the generators that they feel forced to take to ensure security of supply.

If the extra amount that electricity companies pay for contracts connected with British Coal is included, the premium above the wholesale price for power climbs to 16 per cent. That equates to about £24 on the average household bill.

The premium payments, revealed by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, in a league table, come largely from contracts for differences that regional companies arrange with the generators to guarantee them supply and

protect them against rises in the wholesale - or pool - price for electricity. They are effectively insurance contracts, the cost of which is then passed on to customers.

The disclosure that companies are paying such a premium over the average pool price, which is largely dictated by the two largest generators, National Power and PowerGen, will add to concerns over the role of the main electricity generators.

East Midlands Electricity said: "The premium reflects the cost of ensuring that we can meet our demand in a volatile market. If there were more competition in generation then that may be changed." London Electricity

said: "It may well be that with a greater amount of competition in generation the premium expected by the companies would be lower."

The study of the prices paid by regional electricity companies for power is being conducted by Professor Littlechild as part of his efforts to reduce domestic bills. He intends to have further talks with the companies over the contracts they have reached with the main generators and independent power producers.

The price of electricity in the pool is volatile and last year jumped to a record in the winter when supply was distorted by the closure of several nuclear reactors and a breakdown in power imports from

France. Then the price soared so high that regional electricity companies were forced to pay factories not to take supply. In the summer, the pool price is traditionally lower although it is subject to fluctuations.

Much dealing is done by the generators on contracts for differences that strike a balance between what the generator will charge and what the pool price is.

The purchasing expertise of regional companies will come under increasing pressure as the open market in household electricity approaches and companies will be forced to buy electricity without certainty of their long-term customer demands.

IEA wins £90m contract

International Aero Engines, a consortium that includes Rolls-Royce, has won an order worth a potential £90 million. The order is for 2500 engines to power up to ten McDonnell Douglas MD-90 airliners from Hwa Hsia, the leading aircraft leasing company in Taiwan. It had placed firm orders for three of the twinjet MD-90 airliners and planned to take up to seven more through to the year 2000, said Rolls-Royce. IAE is a consortium made up of Rolls and firms from the US, Germany and Japan.

Haden ahead

Haden MacLellan, the restructured industrial engineer, returned its strongest results for five years yesterday. Industrial Fastener Supplies, bought in March for £17 million, generated sales of £7.8 million in ten weeks, helping to lift group sales 29 per cent to £279 million. Pre-tax profits were 40 per cent ahead at £6.3 million. The interim dividend, payable on October 31, rises 0.1p to 1.2p.

Gibbon hit

Shares of Gibbon Group fell 42p to 122p yesterday after the manufacturer warned investors of a shortfall in interim profits because of difficult trading conditions. Michael Gibbon, chairman, said the group sought savings of up to £1 million by merging some of its 12 outlets and reducing its 320-strong workforce by up to 15 per cent. The company said it proposed to maintain the interim and final dividends.

Open offer

Worthington Group, the supplier of products to the textiles industry, is paying £2.4 million for £2.5 million of shares which specialises in the extrusion of silicone rubber on to narrow fabric for use in the production of hold-up stockings. Worthington is raising £3.6 million through a placing and open offer, offering three new shares for every 11 held at 57p each. Existing shares fell 2p to 61p.

BS investment

British Steel is investing £10 million at its Shotton steel works in North Wales to produce higher quality metallic coated steel for Europe's automotive industry. The company seeks to enhance a hot dip coating line, which produces iron-zinc coated strip steel for use in car body panels.

Profits held

Microvite, the international technology group, was able to hold profits unchanged at £1.6 million before tax in the six months to June 30. Earnings eased to 1.4p a share from 1.47p. The interim dividend is 0.425p a share (0.4p). The company said second-half profits were unlikely to exceed the first half.

TOURIST RATES	
Australia \$	2.08
Austria Sch	17.24
Belgium Fr	50.53
Canada \$	1.28
Cyprus Cyp	0.749
Denmark Kr	9.48
Finland Mk	7.48
France Fr	8.28
Germany Dm	2.46
Greece Dr	384
Hong Kong \$	12.82
Iceland Is	113
Ireland Ir	1.02
Israel Sh	5.28
Italy Lit	5.74
Japan Yen	161.50
Malta M	0.595
Netherlands Gld	2.40
New Zealand \$	2.40
Norway Kr	0.51
Portugal Esc	247.50
S Africa Rd	7.83
Spain Ps	202.00
Sweden Kr	10.34
Switzerland Fr	2.01
Turkey Lira	135.451
USA \$	1.648

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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BP in US talks over gas plant

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BP is in talks with a US power company to develop a gas-fired generator in the North East which could provide 600 jobs in Hull, North Humberside.

The generator will, subject to planning consent, be sited next to BP's large chemicals plant at Hull. It will take gas produced by BP and provide electricity for the chemical plant along with pumping the excess into the wholesale market or to local industrial customers.

BP, which will not put equity investment into the building of the power station, said the deal was an important move to secure cheap electricity for its chemical plant which is a large consumer of power and steam. BP will provide about 150 cubic feet of gas per day to fuel the combined cycle gas turbine power station which will generate up to 1,100 megawatts of electricity.

Energy, one of the largest US power companies, was selected by BP after negotiations with about 20 power companies.

Alan Boden, BP's general manager at Hull, said: "The future of the site and its 1,300 employees depends on our ability to attract and support good investments which bring benefits to both BP and the local community." Charles Brown, Energy's vice-president and general manager for Europe, said: "With the level of Energy's technical and development experience and BP's strong local experience and commitment, the ... project will be a major economic addition to the region."

□ Fibrowatt, the biomass-fuelled power station builder, has raised £69 million to finance a poultry litter-fired plant at Thetford in Norfolk. The station should produce electricity for about 40,000 homes.



Lynda La Plante has seen her work win drama awards

Circle in La Plante link

CIRCLE Communications is to join forces with Lynda La Plante, the television drama writer and producer behind hit programmes such as *Prime Suspect* and *The Governor* (Clare Stewart writes). Circle Communication which licenses television programmes worldwide, will work with La Plante Productions to market the company's new output. Two dramas commissioned by ITV are underway. The first, *Supply and Demand*, will be launched by Circle at MIPCOM, the television trade market, in October. Circle, which joined the Alternative Investment Market in June, is active in the licensing of television drama, films and factual programmes.

Kepit ordered to end KBIM agreement

KLEINWORT European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) has been instructed by independent directors to serve nine months' notice to terminate an investment management agreement with Kleinwort Benson Investment Management.

The decision has been taken to minimise the cost to Kepit of ending the existing investment management agreement should this become necessary once the trust's future is

resolved. Fund managers bidding for control of Kepit have been angered by news that KBIM would charge £4 million for termination of its contract to manage the trust.

There are currently 11 proposals to take over the running of Kepit, including a hostile bid by TR European Growth Trust. The deadline for proposals to the Kepit board is next Monday.

Pennington, page 23

Rosebys and Rexmore plan to be reunited

ROSEBYS, the soft furnishings retailer, yesterday launched an agreed £24.6 million share exchange offer for Rexmore, the distributor of upholstery and furnishing fabrics (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The deal will bring the two companies together after a six-year separation. Rexmore and Cattle's Holdings merged their retail interests into Rosebys, the retailing arm of Cattle's, in 1988. Rexmore sold its remaining 20 per cent stake in Rosebys

to Cattle's in 1991. Rosebys was floated a year later.

The offer - 87 new Rosebys shares for every 200 Rexmore shares - values each Rexmore share at about £20.5p and Rexmore's share capital at about £24.65 million. Rexmore directors have pledged their 9.77 per cent holdings.

Rosebys, which last year bought 90 Brentford stores from Lorrho, expects benefits from greater direct sourcing and economies of scale.

Liffe steps up scrutiny

By JON ASHWORTH

CITY traders face punitive fines and tough disciplinary action in an ongoing clampdown by officials at the London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe), the biggest derivatives exchange in Europe. Fines of up to £10,000 for repeat offenders are among weapons at Liffe's disposal in its quest to maintain an orderly trading market.

One well-known Liffe trader, Colin "Ned" Kelly, was recently fined £500 for abusing one of the market's floor-based "observers" - the minimum fixed fine for the use of foul and abusive language. The fine for a second offence rises to £1,000, if repeated within a year, and doubles again to £2,000 for a third offence. On a fourth offence, the matter is referred to a disciplinary panel, which can levy fines of up to £10,000. Details are displayed on the exchange's disciplinary noticeboard. About 2,400 traders

work at Liffe, which inhabits a modern £30 million complex at Cannon Bridge in the City of London. The market was formerly based at the Royal Exchange, near the Bank of England, and has expanded dramatically since moving to new premises in December 1991. An imminent merger with the London Commodity Exchange will further increase numbers and add to the pressure on Liffe officials.

Karen Forseke, managing director of operations and supervision at Liffe, said traders are monitored closely in an attempt to maintain order in the often chaotic circumstances of the "open outcry" market. Orders are shouted across the floor by traders in colourful jackets using oblique hand-signals. Tape recorders and video cameras are used to monitor trades.

Observers in the trading "pits" act as frontline regula-

tors, and security guards are on hand to watch for disturbances. Failure to comply with Liffe's dress code carries an initial fine of £100. Behaving in an aggressive or threatening manner carries a fixed fine of £1,500, rising to £3,000 and £6,000 for a second and third offence. Fights do break out, although incidents are comparatively rare.

Allegations of drug-taking among traders - particularly cocaine - have resulted in spot-checks using police and dogs. Liffe traders earn enormous sums - one saw his income leap from £8,000 to £120,000 in less than four years - and the pressure to perform is intense. Participants agree that the market is more closely scrutinised than ever before. One said yesterday: "There are so many video cameras. You can't pick your nose without it being caught on film."

DAEJAN HOLDINGS PLC

The Chairman,

Mr B. S. E. Freshwater, reports:

- Major property acquisition for £82.5 million.
- Gearing remains conservative at a ratio of 38.1%.
- Record net rental income of £22.8 million.
- Group remains keen purchaser of quality investments.

Year ended 31 March	1996	1995
Net Profit After Tax	£14.5m	£18.0m
Dividends Per Share	35.0p	32.0p
	(proposed)	

Copies of the Report and Financial Statements are available from:
The Secretary, 162 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8JR.

EA Wins £90m Contract

□ Kepit board gathers in rival plans □ Labour's arguments don't hold water □ SIB's metal fatigue

□ WHEN is an offer not an offer? When is a mere proposal an offer? And when is the board of a company you are invested in justified in not passing on to you details of how your investment can be made more valuable?

The answer is in the arcane world of investment trusts, as 70,000 private investors in the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust are gradually learning. We have visited before the twilight world of the terrible twins Kepit and Mepit, a similar trust from Mercury.

Next Monday marks the deadline for proposals to the Kepit board, competing against a hostile offer from another trust. Kepit shares, sold to investors two and a half years ago at £1, are currently trading at 93½p. Add on the value of some warrants only available to original investors and you get to just short of 99p. Not a brilliant return, really, and Kleinwort has had an exciting couple of weeks explaining why.

The two trusts arrived, swallowed up every penny of cash looking for a punt on European privatisations, and then hit a falling stock market. By their nature they were inevitably heavily exposed to just those sectors of the market, utilities, heavy industrials and financials, that were least in favour by 1995.

The hostile offer from TR

European Growth Trust has flushed out plenty of City vultures keen to take over the running of Kepit. There are 11 parties expressing interest, although not all will put in serious proposals. Kleinwort has its own plans for cancelling the near-14 per cent discount the shares stand at to Kepit's actual asset value. This would involve converting into a unit trust, to allow investors to exchange their holding for cash without having to sell through the stock market. It also allows the trust to continue in existence, catering for those wanting to stay in for the upturn in its fortunes that Kleinwort is predicting.

The Takeover Panel has ruled that this plan must be considered as a rival formal offer; shareholders will have to know of it, so they can weight it against the TR bid. The question is how many of the other proposals that come in by close of play on Monday will likewise have to be subjected to public scrutiny.

Kepit's board says it may just pick out the best. Several plans will clearly fall short of being full bids; they may just involve a

fund manager suggesting it can do the job rather better than Kleinwort. This might appeal to investors; but they may never get to hear of it unless that manager decides later on to go public. The Kepit directors are in loco parentis here, and Daddy knows best. They have at least said their selection will come in time for the closing of the TR offer.

This is an important matter. Many overseas investment trusts are trading at similar discounts to their true worth, and Kepit could trigger a feeding frenzy in a normally obscure and tranquil sector of the stock market. The issue will arise again.

Fat cat campaign wears thin

□ LABOUR'S cascade of fat cat "scandals" have a desperate air of the silly season about them. Last week, Glenda Jackson insisted, somewhat inaccurately, that a clutch of the sort of companies one would expect to donate money to the Tories — merchant banks, Hanson, and so on — had done rather well out



of the British Rail privatisation.

At the weekend, we learned, courtesy of Frank Dobson, shadow environment spokesman, that water companies make, ooh, pots and pots of money and a fair few mistakes. Yesterday, Mr Dobson discovered non-executive directorships, and the habit of retired civil servants of popping up in the company boardroom.

One should not blame Mr Dobson and his Labour colleagues. They are simply hitting the Conservatives in the area where they are most vulnerable: privatisation. Indeed, water industry gossip has Mr Dobson apologising to his friends in the business with a shame-faced "Sorry — nothing personal". But

there is a danger of such a scattergun approach obscuring the real issues.

It is unclear just what Labour would do about industry fat cats. Higher tax is not on the agenda because this would hit the slothful undeserving and the aspiring entrepreneur alike. There has likewise been no suggestion of any root-and-branch dismantling of accepted corporate governance, such as limits on the number of non-executive posts that can be held.

Yet it is hard not to feel uneasy at the arrival of a civil servant on the board of the company he helped to privatise. There is no suggestion that Sir Humphrey, in his well-deserved retirement, has much influence left to exert on behalf of his new employer. Rather it is the suspicion of a past favour being rewarded.

The companies themselves say they want non-executives with experience in all walks of life. Fine. Try a ban on appointments to any business with which they have previously had official dealings. Let defence mandarins go into banking, let their counterparts at the Treasury try their

luck at arms manufacturers. Why does one suspect that the appeal of retired civil servants might then suddenly wane?

Bluffer's guide to copper

□ WE DON'T know what happened. We're not even sure we will ever understand what happened. We don't want it to happen again, but we haven't a clue how to prevent it. Anybody, but anybody, got any ideas?

That is the most useful summary anyone could need of the 75-page publication from the Securities and Investments Board on the £15 billion Sumitomo scandal that convulsed the City earlier this summer. The curious fact was that the scandal made the front pages, and the public was aware that something awesomely terrible had happened on the London Metal Exchange. But no one, outside that hermetically sealed world, with its own strange customs, rituals and dress code, could comprehend just what. It now appears that the SIB is

not much the wiser, even after months of investigation. The document is a useful bluffer's guide to the metals market, but it is short on recommendations. The SIB is playing for high stakes, because other exchanges around the world have been keen to use the implication that London is an unreformed thieves' den to poach business.

Sir Andrew Large, the SIB chairman, thinks the metals market should be transparent, fair, reliable and truthful. Undeniable: except that all markets thrive on a lack of transparency. There is nothing to gain if your trading partner knows exactly what you are up to. Deals that must be made in the full glare of daylight will inevitably go off-market, or to other exchanges. The SIB accepts this paradox, even if it is short of a resolution.

Two-way bet

□ A THOUGHT for IG Index, or any of those unofficial betting syndicates the City seems to breed when business is slack. After the non-appearance (yet again) of the gas regulator's deliberations on British Gas's pipelines business, which followed the non-appearance (yet again) of a Carlsberg-Tetley deal, how about a sweepstake on which appears first? The betting for both now starts next week.

Hanson hit by sharp fall in price of chemicals

BY CLARE STEWART

A SHARP fall in chemicals prices made a hole in third-quarter figures from Hanson, the Anglo-American conglomerate in the throes of a demerger.

Group pre-tax profits for the three months to June fell by 18 per cent, to £265 million, before exceptional charges, against last year's £324 million.

The impact of the poor chemicals performance had been expected by the City, although the results were at the lower end of analysts' forecasts. Proceeds of £448 million from four disposals boosted the overall profits figure to £713 million. The sale of businesses has taken Hanson, led by Lord Hanson, past its original £2 billion disposal target.

With Hanson's first demerger looming, Derek Popham, the chief executive, stressed that its demerger schedule was on track. Listings details on Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco Group are due next week, followed by a number of investor roadshows leading up to the deadline of October 1.

While operating profits in the chemicals division fell from £136 million to £70 million, there are signs of improve-

ment in Quantum Chemical, which makes polyethylene, acetyl and specialty polymer products, Mr Popham said. "Price increases are beginning to come through. There is a strong demand for polyethylene so the conditions are right for price increases."

Conditions remain difficult for SCM, which manufactures titanium dioxide, the essential whitening ingredient used in paint, paper and plastics. Hanson has already announced reduction in capacity at a number of plants, but is hopeful that the worst is over and it plans to introduce price increases next month.

There was a strong contribution from Eastern Electricity as operating profits from the energy businesses rose from £40 million, to £103 million, in the three months.

The operating result from tobacco showed an increase of 5.4 per cent, to £96 million. In spite of declining consumption in the UK, the division improved market share and lifted sales volume in Europe and other international markets.

Shares in Hanson fell 2p, to 166½p, reflecting the market's anticipation of the third-quarter figures.

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Lord Hanson has exceeded a £2 billion disposal target

US rates quandary persists

A MIXED bag of American economic statistics left the markets none the wiser about what the US Federal Reserve is likely to decide on interest rates next week.

Suggestions of an economy losing momentum came from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Its index of manufacturing activity fell sharply in August and its monthly survey pointed to slowing activity in the second half of this year. This was a weaker report than Wall Street had expected.

Set against this was a slightly more robust than expected industrial production report. Production rose 0.1 per cent in July, against forecasts of a 0.1 per cent fall. In addition, weekly figures showed the number of people claiming benefit at a seven-year low. The Federal Open Market Committee meets on Tuesday to discuss whether to raise interest rates.

ISS chief quits

Poul Andreassen, founder director of ISS-International, resigned yesterday after the contract cleaning group, disclosed a net loss of £240 million for the first half of the year, against profits of £40 million previously.

ISS, based in Denmark, said £65 million of charges and provisions at its American division that were incurred through irregularities had been confirmed by accounting investigators and a need for a further £32 million had been identified.

Mr Andreassen, a former ISS chief executive, criticised the accounting methods of the ISS US division and said provisional investigations showed that ISS management and internal functions had not detected problems in its New York office.

ISS staff had falsified accounts "without personal gain", he said, and although he was not in any way legally answerable for the irregularities he accepted executive responsibility. ISS said the effect of the irregularities on its full-year result would depend on the outcome of talks to sell the majority of the American division.

Allders position

Allders, the department stores group, yesterday appointed Rod Ivey as finance director. He will take up the position on September 9 when Tony Collyer, the current finance director, leaves the group. Mr Ivey has been finance director of the Allders Department Stores division since 1990.

Fairey makes its largest buy with \$126m US deal

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FAIREY GROUP, the industrial electronics and specialist engineering company, yesterday made its largest ever acquisition, buying the ultraviolet coating process division of Fusion Systems, the US company, for \$126 million.

John Poulter, Fairey chief executive, said the acquisition will enhance earnings this year. The deal is being funded with borrowings, including \$100 million raised from private placements with US institutions. Fairey will acquire net assets of \$25 million and there

will be a goodwill write-off of \$101 million. Shareholders' funds will become temporarily negative, the company said. The group's interest charge should, however, be covered on a pro forma basis ten times.

Fusion UV, the division that — subject to US antitrust regulatory approval — Fairey will acquire, makes ultraviolet lamps and equipment which are used to dry and finish special coatings used in the optical fibre, electronics and automotive sectors.

Fusion UV is the world's

largest supplier of the processing technology. In 1995, it reported net sales of \$51.1 million and adjusted pre-tax profits of \$10.1 million.

Through its acquisitions, Fairey has moved away from its traditional defence and aerospace business. It now focuses on high-technology, proprietary products.

Analysts moved their forecasts for 1997 up by about £1 million to between £54.7 million and £55.6 million.

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Hoare Govett says slowdown expected

BY OUR CITY STAFF

A BOOMING six months of bumper profits in London's investment banking industry is giving way to a sober second half of cooler market conditions. ABN Amro Hoare Govett said yesterday.

The UK arm of the Dutch banking group reported a sharp rise in first-half profits, buoyed by a surge in takeover bids and new issues and healthy stock market activity.

But Nick Bannister, Hoare Govett chief executive, said conditions may be much slower in the second half and questioned how sustainable the costly expansion plans of

some rivals would be in a harsher climate. Mr Bannister said: "Our experience suggests things are going to be more difficult in the second half. We are quite cynical about some of the build-up we have seen by a number of competitors."

Yesterday ABN Amro, the parent company, announced a 36 per cent rise in first-half net profits to 1.7 billion guilders (£660 million), powered by the contribution from Hoare Govett. Mr Bannister said the investment bank's first half performance was "substantially ahead of budget".

F&C increases net asset value by 5%

BY OUR CITY STAFF

FOREIGN & COLONIAL, the UK's largest quoted investment trust, raised the value of its net assets by 5 per cent to £1.774 billion in the six months to June 30 and has raised its interim dividend 11 per cent to 0.7p a share.

The trust intends recommending a final dividend of at least 1.52p, making a total of 2.22p, an increase of 7.4 per cent on 1995. Net assets per share rose from 160.80p at the end of December to 168.82p. The shares yesterday rose 4p to 156½p, leaving them at a discount of 7.15 per cent to the value of the assets. Foreign &

Colonial's discount rose to 11 per cent during the half year when the trust was removed from the FT-SE 100 index to make way for United News & Media. Orange and Next. But special dividend payments from privatised electricity companies helped consolidated earnings per share to rise from 1.39p to 1.70p.

John Slater, chairman, said: "The benefit of a high exposure to the generally better performing overseas markets was partly offset by disappointments in our UK portfolio and the weakness of the Japanese yen."

BRIT chief joins Soros in hostile raid

BY JON ASHWORTH



MATTHEW HARDING, vice-chairman of Chelsea Football Club, has teamed up with George Soros, the billionaire speculator, to launch a hostile raid on the Lloyd's insurance market. HCG Lloyd's Investment Trust, which three weeks ago announced plans to merge with CLM Insurance Fund, has become the unwitting target of a higher offer.

Directors of CLM and HCG were agitated at yesterday's swoop by Benfield & Rea Investment Trust (BRIT), which values HCG at £78.2 million, or 120p per HCG share. There is a cash alternative of 117p per share. CLM's offer, described as a merger but effectively a takeover, values HCG at £78.2 million. HCG shareholders

are offered 95 new CLM shares for every 100 shares held. Shares in HCG rose up to 118p on the news. Mr Harding, chairman of BRIT, said that the new offer provided an immediate uplift in value to HCG shareholders. HCG was considering its response yesterday and advised shareholders to take no action for now. CLM insists that shareholders stand to reap substantial future value from its offer, which closes to acceptance on August 22.

BRIT's offer is underwritten in part by Quantum Partners, whose principal investment adviser, Soros Fund Management, holds 2.5 per cent of HCG. BRIT has 11.5 per cent of HCG, and claims, with concert parties, to seek for 27.9 per cent.

Close to 60 per cent of HCG shareholders have indicated that they will back the offer, as opposed to the cash alternative, provided no higher bid emerges.

Shares in BRIT rose 2p to 119p and those in CLM rose 2p to 116p. BRIT is further seeking to acquire a minority shareholding in Wren, a Lloyd's managing and members' agent. BRIT was launched in November 1995 to invest in the insurance sector. Net assets at June 30 stood at £70.3 million, or 117.2p per share, an 18.5 per cent increase in net asset value since launch. BRIT made a pre-tax profit of £857,000 in the six months to end-June.

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AKZO NOBEL					
Akzo Nobel N.V. (formerly Akzo N.V.)					
Registered Office at Arnhem, the Netherlands					
Report for the 1st half of 1996*					
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME					
Millions of guilders (NLG)					
	1996	January-June 1995	1996	January-June 1995	
Net sales	11,260		10,991		
Operating costs	(10,221)		(9,877)		
Operating Income	1,039		1,114		
Financing charges	(127)		(136)		
Operating income less financing charges	912		978		
Taxes	(260)		(286)		
Earnings of consolidated companies from normal operations, after taxes	652		692		
Earnings from nonconsolidated companies	64		77		
Minority interest	716		769		
	(17)		(20)		
Net income before extraordinary items	699		749		
Extraordinary items			40		
Net income	699		789		
Net income per share, in NLG					
- before extraordinary items	9.83		10.54		
- including extraordinary items	9.83		11.10		
Common stock, in thousands of shares	71,089		71,080		**
SALES AND OPERATING INCOME BY ACTIVITY					
Millions of guilders (NLG)					
Net sales	January-June 1996	1995	Operating income	January-June 1996	1995
Chemicals	3,857	3,739	Chemicals	324	358
Coatings	3,661	3,494	Coatings	274	271
Pharma	1,961	1,908	Pharma	383	375
Fibers	1,797	1,874	Fibers	60	97
Other activities and intercompany deliveries	(16)	(24)	Other activities and nonallocated items	(2)	13
Total	11,260	10,991	Total	1,039	1,114
* The data in this report are unaudited ** At December 31, 1995					

Sales and income
In the second quarter of 1996, Akzo Nobel's net income amounted to NLG 367 million, compared with NLG 384 million in the corresponding quarter of 1995, a 4 percent decrease.
Operating income of NLG 545 million was 3 percent lower than the corresponding figure in 1995. Return on sales was 9.7 percent, against 10.4 percent last year. A considerable decline of Fibers' results was partly offset by an increased contribution from Coatings, while currency translation effects were positive.
Sales were NLG 5.6 billion, up 4 percent from last year's second quarter.
The increase breaks down into a 5 percent positive currency translation effect and 1 percent higher average selling prices on the one hand, and 2 percent lower volumes on the other. The net effect of acquisitions and divestments was practically nil.

Net income for the first six months
amounted to NLG 699 million, against NLG 789 million (including NLG 40 million of extraordinary income) in the same period of 1995. The corresponding per share amounts were NLG 9.83 and NLG 11.10 (NLG 10.54 before extraordinary income).

Outlook
In line with our expectations, the first half of 1996 was weaker than the same period of last year. On the assumption that the economy will gradually pick up, we maintain our earlier view that for the full year we will realize earnings — excluding extraordinary items — of the same order of magnitude as in 1995.

Arnhem, August 7, 1996
The Board of Management

Copies of the complete report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents: Barclays Global Securities Services, 8 Angel Court, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 7HT and Midland Securities Service, Paying Agency Section, 5th Floor, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA. The report for the 3rd quarter of 1996 will be published on November 6.

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYLight dawns at
water company

YORKSHIRE WATER was apologising again yesterday — this time for its wasteful use of electricity. The water company was under attack from conservationists for leaving high-powered floodlights burning at a deserted site 24 hours a day for the last seven months.

At the height of last year's drought, the company set up a giant lorry stop on the moors above Huddersfield as a base for its massive tankering operation. But when the operation was completed last January, the floodlights were never switched off.

Yorkshire Water said that the lights should only have been on at night, but that there had been a problem with the switching mechanism. Then, mysteriously this week, the lights were turned off.

Early Bath

ABBEY National, whose chairman is Lord Tugendhat, will no longer require the services of paper merchants Pollack & Selby. Abbey has invested in a satellite broadcast system which went live yesterday. It will provide "Voices with on-line bulletins and instruction manuals. Several dishes underwent a change of colour to blend in with local surroundings, and the bank was denied planning permission to install a dish at its Bath branch where the BBC filmed the final kiss for its adaption of *Persuasion*."

Tugendhat swapped
paper for satellite

AT LEAST someone is being honest. Asked why so many British companies, including National Express, BAA and Manchester Airport, had decided to join in the bidding for Australia's soon-to-be privatised airports, Martyn Booth, a partner of air consultants The Portland Group, a member of the consortium which is being headed up by bus operator National Express, commented: "I think it must be the weather."

Carmelite cuts

LEISURE groups are eyeing up a cut-price castle in Yorkshire that belongs to the Carmelite friars. The friars, who have run the castle as a retreat and a conference centre for a number of City firms including Zeneca, have been forced to knock £500,000 off the asking price for Hazelwood Castle since they put it on the market more than twelve months ago. Situated near Tadcaster, the Grade I listed castle is often used for location filming by the BBC and Yorkshire TV. So far, Gerard Eve, the Leeds-based estate agent, has received three firm offers since the asking-price was reduced to "over £1 million".

DAVID Naylor-Leyland, the owner of Dukes Hotel, has a premonition that his books, when it eventually came to his notice that a French student on work experience at the hotel had been allocating Scottish bank notes to foreign-exchange accounts.

MORAG PRESTON

Property market seeks move
from bleak house to 'des res'Housing is at its most
affordable since 1978,but the recovery in the
market is only patchy,

says Marianne Curphey

Househunting in the 1990s, as everyone who has done it knows, is not about happy couples tripping hand in hand from one dream home to another. For the average, middle-market buyer, it is about fruitless trips to see scruffy, badly built, overpriced properties, endless wasted visits to estate agents' offices and frenzied bidding wars with other buyers for anything that is half decent.

The plight of the seller is just as bad: repeated calls to the agent to ask if there are any interested buyers, only to be given the same reply: sorry, no luck.

So what is wrong with the housing market? This week a report for TSB bank showed that homes had not been so affordable since 1978 and according to recent headlines, houses and flats are selling within days of going on the market, prices are rising and have recovered to 1988 levels, and gazumping is back.

How can the two be reconciled? Are we really revisiting the heady days of the 1980s when house price inflation spiralled out of control?

Not at all, says Rob Thomas, building society analyst with UBS who has been watching the market closely. There is more activity than in previous years, but nothing that can be described as a boom. "The hype is definitely overdone," he says. "Owners of good quality properties are still sitting on negative equity and will not move until they are sure of making a profit on their home. Others are anxious about moving and are watching and waiting for real evidence that the housing slump is over."

A very large proportion of the houses and flats currently up for sale were bought in the 1980s at the height of the housing boom and are now unfashionable. These include studio and one-bedroom flats, new homes, particularly in less desirable areas, properties in "up-and-coming" streets which never became gentrified, ex-council properties, flats and houses in poor locations, near to railway lines, public houses or industrial units, and badly converted Victorian houses. There is also a reluctance on the part of first- and second-time buyers to commit themselves to large mortgage repayments, having lost money in the housing slump and seen friends and family trapped by negative equity.

A recent report from the Council of Mortgage Lenders suggests that a rise of 5 per cent in house prices could halve the number of households suffering from negative equity to 500,000 in the UK. Negative equity most affects the South East, where people who bought in the late 1980s and early 1990s saw values plummet. Prices are now rising more quickly in the South East than in other parts of the country.

House prices are widely forecast to rise by 4 to 6 per cent this year, plus a further 5 to 6 per cent in 1997, but Rob Thomas says he is not yet ready to revise upwards his forecast of a 5 per cent rise this year.

"The recovery is patchy," he says. "London and the South East are better than the rest of the country and there are local 'booms' in desirable regions. However, it is nothing like the 1980s. There is a shortage of good quality property — particularly in London, and at present the number of sales per month is still less than 100,000. In the 1980s, the volume of sales were at least 100,000 every month: so we have not even reached

1980s levels, and certainly not surpassed them." Across the country, the picture is similar. Well-built family homes close to shops, schools and green spaces are selling quickly, with offers made in less than a week. New developments — particularly estates outside commuting distance or in less fashionable areas — remain unsold.

Nationwide's house price index for July showed an increase of 3.8 per cent over the same period last year. Philip Williamson, Nationwide's corporate development director, believes this reflects a return of confidence in the market. "Generally speaking, middle to upper sections of the market appear buoyant. We expect activity to continue to improve over the rest of this year, though higher transactions depend on

second-time buyers coming back into the market in greater numbers." Prices in some sectors have been rising strongly, Mr Williamson says, because demand has outstripped supply. As more people put their homes up for sale, prices will moderate, and over the next two years he expects prices to rise ahead of general inflation. Nevertheless, the housing slump was so long and so deep that even this will represent "a relatively modest recovery".

According to the Nationwide, Greater London, the South East, Northern Ireland and to a lesser extent the South West and Scotland have shown signs of a recovery in prices. East Anglia, and the East and West Midlands have picked up a little, but house prices in

the North West, Wales, and Yorkshire and Humberside have fallen. The Halifax, Britain's biggest lender, has a similar assessment of the current market. Although the recovery is continuing, it expects some flattening off of the recent sharp monthly increases in house prices over the summer. This, it says, is reflected in its most recently reported house price index figures. In June, house prices fell 0.4 per cent compared with May. Then in July they rose by 0.5 per cent. Over the 12 months to July, house prices have risen by 5.3 per cent.

The Halifax continues to forecast that house prices will rise by about 5 per cent in 1996. The average price paid by first-time buyers was £37,169.

The Halifax adds: "Many estate agents report frustration at the low level of new listings coming on to the market, notably in southern England." This shortage, it says, is due to the reluctance of people to put their own house on the market before they have found a new home.

The building society says distinctive properties and ones in popular areas are in short supply and are selling quickly. Rob Thomas agrees: "Sellers are finding it easy to sell houses in areas like Harrogate in Yorkshire or in regions close to the green belt in Cheshire, but are hard pushed to make a sale in the frontier parts of Barnsley, for example," he says.

Housing is more affordable than it has been for more than a decade and first-time buyers are leap-frogging the traditional small properties in favour of something bigger. One-bedroom flats, ex-council properties and unwanted newly built homes make up around a quarter of the country's housing stock. Some industry observers have given warning that it may be many years before the housing market is buoyant enough to kick-start demand for these type of homes, and in the meantime, the owners who want to move would be better off renting them out. Mr Thomas believes that house prices could rise by more than 10 per cent before they would start to make home ownership unaffordable for the majority of people, if earnings continue to rise by an average 5 per cent a year.



Properties in many central London locations are selling extremely well

second-time buyers coming back into the market in greater numbers." Prices in some sectors have been rising strongly, Mr Williamson says, because demand has outstripped supply. As more people put their homes up for sale, prices will moderate, and over the next two years he expects prices to rise ahead of general inflation. Nevertheless, the housing slump was so long and so deep that even this will represent "a relatively modest recovery".

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Estate agents find buyers still reluctant to commit themselves to big mortgages

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Robin Paterson, chief executive of Hamptons estate agent, says feedback from his staff has revealed there is a real shortage of quality properties. "Good houses, particularly in London are selling within days because there are so few of them around. In Hampshire, Berkshire, Sussex and Surrey, homes at the upper end of the market have increased by 10 to 15 per cent. Some houses which at the beginning of the year were fetching £450,000, are now selling for £500,000."

Central London locations like Belgravia, Mayfair, Kensington and Knightsbridge are selling extremely well, while residential areas like St John's Wood, Wimbledon and Richmond have seen patchy recovery because they have both good and bad properties on sale, he says.

Mr Paterson believes that London prices will continue to pick up over the next six months, while prices in the country outside the capital will stabilise rather than increase. "In some parts of London we are already above 1988-89 prices and houses are going for within 5 per cent of the asking price."

However, while housebuilders express concern that new developments continue to languish unsold, and buyers and sellers continue to complain about the state of the market, there are still some winners in the home ownership lottery.

These are the estate agents, who, after living through some lean times in the early 1990s, are once again turning up to appointments in shiny new convertibles.

Tried and tested
symbols of
success given
new lease of lifeMorag Preston looks at the fashion for
reviving well-known marketing images

The "dog-in-the-manager" attitude attributed to BT after its battle to prevent a rival company from adopting the traditional red phone-box for its own use, is not exclusive to telephone operators. In the past year, well-known brands that peaked in the Sixties and Seventies and then lay dormant, have been making a comeback — and not always incurring the original owner's pleasure.

International Classic Brands specializes in seizing familiar but somewhat tired brand names, bringing them back to life, and re-introducing them into the cosmetics industry. Scents from Carven, soaps from Mornay, Cyclax cream and Malibu suntan lotion, are all included in ICB's portfolio.

According to Chris Wood, chairman of CLK, the brand consultants: "The cost of launching new brands is escalating... and nine out of ten fail. It makes perfect commercial sense to relaunch something tried and tested. However, this could be very dangerous in the long term."

Babycham, the drink that added sparkle to a thousand teenage romances, hit its peak in 1965.

Twenty-eight years later, Gaymer, the drinks group, spent £5 million on an unsuccessful advertising campaign to heighten interest in the brand. As well as changing the bottle from green to blue and doubling its size, Gaymer replaced the



The Babycham emblem

yellow chamois, or Chinese water deer, with the letter "B". In October 1994, Matthew Clark bought the Babycham label and, by the end of this year, is expected to reinvent the brand.

After 20 years in business, the much-respected Morris Minor Centre based in Bath, was forced to rename to comply with a new ruling from Rover. It is just one of many garages that the BMW-owned automotive company has written to saying that they are no longer authorised to use names such as Austin and Morris, even though Rover has not made cars with those badges for years. Demands to scrap signs, letter headings and catalogues, under the threat of legal action, have led to large and small dealers being bullied into changing.

BL, which evolved from BLMC after Austin and Morris became the British Motor Corporation, was renamed to establish a more

upmarket identity for the newly privatised business. A flourishing industry dealing in memorabilia from marques that had been sidelined, has incited Rover to tangle through company records threatening legal action against those who use products branded with the Rover Group names without a licence from its British Motor Heritage subsidiary.

Among trademarks that have gone out of fashion since the beginning of this year is the distinctive double-G Gucci logo and the "D&G" on the clothing of the designer. Dolce & Gabbana, Johnnie Walker, the dandy familiar to Scotch whisky drinkers, also underwent a change earlier this year. The striding figure that has featured on the bottles since 1910 lost his face, legs, monocle, frilly shirt, gloves and boot tassels.

The dog and gramophone that has been HMV's logo since 1921 has stuck with the company ever since. The artist, Francis Baurard, sold his painting, *His Master's Voice*, for £100 to EMI, then called the Gramophone Company, at the turn of the last century. HMV, which is part of Thorn EMI, used the

logo to promote its hardware, record label, and retail side. The latter is the only surviving part of the group, but the dog and trumpet still feature large — albeit in the company's neon pink.

The toucan adopted as a marketing pet, made its debut around 70 years ago. Christie's the auctioneers is selling a plethora of stout-drinking toucan memorabilia this autumn, but there is still the chance that the bird will make a comeback.

Lookalike branding — jumping on the back of a tried-and-trusted idea — is another lucrative alternative. Kellogg, the food giant, has demanded that Tesco change the design of its own-label cornflake packets. The company paid for advertisements in national newspapers yesterday in an attempt to emphasise the difference between the brands. "If you don't see the Kellogg's name on the box, it isn't Kellogg's in the box," said the advertisement.

Two years ago, Coca-Cola forced Sainsbury to change the design of the supermarket chain's own-brand cola cans to avoid confusion. BT is hoping for a similar victory in October.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Insurers must face demands of a market in transition

From the General Manager,
Insurance IBM EMEA.

Sir, Today's announcement that the insurers Refuge Group and United Friendly are to merge (*The Times*, August 9) is an example of British insurers facing up to the major transition that is taking place in the insurance market. The UK alone has seen the number of people employed in the sales forces of insurance companies fall from around 220,000 in 1986 to around 80,000 this year, with further falls anticipated.

It is also evident that the European market is now starting to experience many of the challenges that the UK has been facing in recent years. The market overall is moving from being largely regulated to one that is highly competitive and deregulated.

In Europe, EU insurance directives now mean that in-

surance companies can sell their products in any other EU country. Also, there is growing competition from the banking industry and telemarketers, many of whom have very strong relationships with their customers and a finely tuned approach to customer service.

Many insurance companies on the Continent are beginning to wake up to the challenges that lie ahead of them. Therefore, any potential lead that UK companies have in experience of exploiting the changing market will soon be eroded. Sadly, there are still too many insurers who have not invested in developing adequate plans, and as a result many will fall by the wayside. Estimates vary but, for example, there are only expected to be about 30 significant life assurance product providers by the turn of the century.

To succeed in the future, insurers must win on four battlegrounds: selecting markets, understanding customers, risk management and positioning to execute business strategies.

As the market becomes more competitive and customers more demanding, insurers need to invest in new distribution and servicing systems and generally improve their overall offering.

In order to survive in this increasingly competitive environment, it is imperative for insurers to follow the lead shown by the Refuge Group and United Friendly and face the new challenges head on.

Yours faithfully,
ROCCO SEGRETÌ,
General Manager,
Insurance IBM EMEA,
IBM United Kingdom Ltd.,
New Square,
Bedfont Lakes,
FELTHAM.

North Sea output has bright future

From Mr Andrew Searle

Sir, Carl Morish's report "Shrinking reserves hit North Sea prospects" (August 5), which was based on data supplied by an oil consultant, presents a pessimistic picture of future oil and gas discoveries and production in UK waters, whereas the industry's own survey shows the opposite.

The UK Offshore Operators Association's report *Towards 2020* shows a very encouraging picture of future offshore oil and gas production and its potential longevity. It predicts that annual oil production in Britain will continue to exceed the annual rate of consumption for another ten years and that there are sufficient reserves to sustain significant levels for at least 20 years.

At the end of the millennium gas production could reach a new peak of over 10,000 million cubic feet a day, which is double what it was in 1990.

Pension partiality

From Mr K B Reynolds

Sir, Can we really expect Peter Davis (*Executive Voice*, July 20) to be impartial in his pension advice for the individual? I take exception to his view regarding the 20 per cent tax-free cash sum, and the inference that this will be squandered by the individual. More to the point, he knows

comparing the annuity as a percentage of the fund, the annuity could be paid "forever" without exhausting the pension fund. A case again of the insurers benefiting at the expense of the rightful heir of the deceased estate.

Yours faithfully,
K B REYNOLDS
104 Flaytys Lane
Riviera

Mortgage rates for
Bradford & Bingley
borrowers are down.

Notice is given to all Bradford & Bingley Building Society variable rate borrowers that the Interest Rate charged will be reduced by 0.25%, (apart from those mentioned below) with effect from 17th August 1996.

Mortgages Direct borrowers, borrowers who are entitled to written notice and borrowers whose mortgages are regulated under the terms of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, will be notified by individual letter, of when the rate reduction will apply.

Those variable rate borrowers who completed on or after 9th June 1996 will already have been notified of the reduced rate.

Under the Society's annual review scheme, borrowers will be advised of the new Monthly Mortgage Payment on the annual mortgage statement that is issued in January.



Simply the right choice

Head Office: PO Box 88, Crossflatts, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2UA.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996 Low Company Price + - % RE					1996 Low Company Price + - % RE					1996 Low Company Price + - % RE					1996 Low Company Price + - % RE				
100	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200
101	21	31	41	51	61	71	81	91	101	111	121	131	141	151	161	171	181	191	201
102	22	32	42	52	62	72	82	92	102	112	122	132	142	152	162	172	182	192	202
103	23	33	43	53	63	73	83	93	103	113	123	133	143	153	163	173	183	193	203
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105	25	35	45	55	65	75	85	95	105	115	125	135	145	155	165	175	185	195	205
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165	85	95	105	115	125	135	145	155	165	175	185	195	205	165	165	165	165	165	165
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167	87	97	107	117	127	137	147	157	167	177	187	197	207	167	167	167	167	167	167
168	88	98	108	118	128	138	148	158	168	178	188	198	208	168	168	168	168	168	168
169	89	99	109	119	129	139	149	159	169	179	189	199	209	169	169	169	169	169	169
170	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
171	91	101	111	121	131	141	151	161	171	181	191	201	171	171	171	171	171	171	171
172	92	102	112	122	132	142	152	162	172	182	192	202	172	172	172	172	172	172	172
173	93	103	113	123	133	143	153	163	173	183	193	203	173	173	173	173	173	173	173
174	94	104	114	124	134	144	154	164	174	184	194	204	174	174	174	174	174	174	174
175	95	105	115	125	135	145	155	165	175	185	195	205	175	175	175	175	175	175	175
176	96	106	116	126	136	146	156	166	176	186	196	206	176	176	176	176	176	176	176
177																			

1996 Low Company							1996 Low Company						
High	Low	Company	Price	±%	W	P/E	High	Low	Company	Price	±%	W	P/E
1300	1075	Hardaway Ad	1150	+5	49	184	488	256	Urova Green	482	+12	27	185
286	241	Inteltek	275	+1	61	148	489	149	Ally	154	+2	3	203
220	193	Investment Co.	205	+1	61	148	489	145	Amco Lights	151	+2	3	143
266	228	Way Corp.	265	+1	3	208	511	131	Marathon Retail	274	+1	19	33
220	193	Investment Co.	205	+1	61	148	1305	513	Medi Bros	153	+2	21	262
160	138	Johnson Fry	137	+1	36	66	635	403	Medi Group	432	+1	2	262
327	326	Laborer Inc.	327	+1	4	46	635	403	Medi Group	432	+1	2	262
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EDUCATION

Kathleen Tattersall defends modular A levels and praises this year's record number of achievers

Why are so many of us suspicious of success?

Fool's gold. Not worth the paper they are written on. Modular is the softer option. These, and other, recent comments on modular A levels have augmented the usual seasonal refrain that the standards of A-level examinations are declining.

The criticisms are largely speculative, having been made in ignorance of the results. They also betray profound misconceptions about the nature of modular A levels, which have a substantial entry for the first time in 1996.

It is time to challenge these misconceptions and to give the lie to the belief that the standard of modular A levels is different from that of linear A levels.

So what are modular examinations? A modular A-level course is split into a maximum of six divisions (or modules) and the student can spread the six module examinations over the two years of the course, taking, for example, one in the spring of the first year, two in the summer, one in the spring of the second year and two in the final summer.

In a linear A-level course the whole subject is examined in the summer of the second year. Module examinations are externally set and marked, and the same examiners grade both the linear and modular routes when a syllabus allows both.

All syllabuses and schemes of assessment, whether modular or linear, must be approved by the Government's School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) which insists that "each module will be assessed at the full Advanced-level standard irrespective of when in the course the student takes the module, ie, no allowance will be made for maturation" (paragraph 30 of the GCE A and AS Code of Practice).

It is equally important to under-

stand what modular examinations are not. They are not based on coursework carried out by students outside the examination room and marked by teachers (only a small percentage of the work may be assessed in this way, the same percentage as in the linear examination).

They are not tests administered by teachers on a date convenient to the school when the student is ready; the module examinations are held on prearranged dates, the same for all students, in formal examination conditions, just as linear examinations.

So why are there suggestions that modular A-level examinations are less demanding, less rigorous and easier than linear ones? It has been suggested that more (too many?) students pass; that the possibility of resitting an early module to get a better result offers an unfair advantage over students for the linear examination (ie, makes modular easier); that the questions in modular examinations are less demanding; that all modules test is short-term memory, not an in-depth understanding of the subject.

Imputing differences in standard between the modular and linear routes by reference to pass rates is highly misleading. Each year, a sizeable minority of (linear) A-level candidates fails their exams, of course, included in the calculation of the pass rate. Naturally, if only candidates likely to succeed enter, modular success rates are likely to be higher than linear. Even so, in some cases the proportion of candidates achieving high grades is greater for linear than modular syllabuses this year.

Criticism that resitting a module examination constitutes a reduction in the A-level standard is particularly invidious. Every mod-



Fool's gold or the rewards of hard work? A-level pupils celebrate yesterday after checking their grades

ule, whenever it is taken and whether it is being taken for the first, second or third time by a candidate, is of A-level standard. We are constantly reminded that our national future depends on the development of a highly skilled and well-qualified workforce. Not to encourage young people to attain these skills and achieve these

same subject and for other subjects: scarcely an easy experience and one not faced by candidates for linear A levels.

That modular questions are easier than those in linear A levels is again confounded by the evidence. In most syllabuses a large part of the assessment, including questions, mark schemes and awarding standards, is common between the modular and linear routes. Finally, the criticism that modular A levels encourage short-term memory is also ill-founded. There is often a delay of several months between candidates covering the work and taking the exami-

nation. Many do not, for example, want to sit a module examination after only one sixth-form term.

Modular A levels must also provide for some "synoptic assessment" which "tests the candidates' understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject". This requirement militates against "short-termism". In

addition, the overall examination time for modular candidates is often up to 50 per cent longer than that of linear candidates. This means that more of the syllabus is tested and makes it more difficult for students to avoid difficult topics.

As might be expected, the new modular A levels have experienced some minor difficulties, usually of an administrative nature. However, the virulence of the criticisms made of them, particularly in regard to their standards, is both misplaced and mischievous. Why, in this country, are so many suspicious of success?

Let us celebrate schemes of assessment that enable more young people to achieve higher standards of attainment, in line with the Government's intentions.

● Kathleen Tattersall is chief executive of the Northern Examinations and Assessment Board and current convenor of the Joint Forum for the GCE and GCSE.

The criticisms made of modular A levels is misplaced and mischievous

qualifications seems perverse. Resitting a module examination is, in principle, identical to resitting a whole A level, except that the candidate does not have to wait for a whole year for the opportunity to do so. Moreover, a candidate resitting a module examination will be preparing for it in addition to studying for other modules in the

A classical tale of laughter and tears

Philip Howard goes to a summer school which specialises in Greek

Helen Eastman from Wimbledon High School brought tears to the eyes as she met her husband after a separation of 17 years. And this was odd because she was only recently 17 herself.

But Helen was playing the original Helen in Euripides' strange and powerful tragedy of that name, rolling out the iambs and rapid lyrics in ancient Greek. And this was even odder because Helen and the 30 members of the cast had learnt their parts of the wicked waste of life by wanton gods in less than two weeks.

These schoolchildren from all quarters were going through the intellectual assault course of the Greek summer school at Bryanston, outside Blandford Forum in Dorset. There they learnt as much Greek in two weeks as they learn in two terms of ordinary school.

Unlike some of the education system, these summer schools actually work. Almost all the students are keen to learn. Their tutors are the cream of the profession. Regius professors, powerful heads of school, and the best teachers from the best schools take a bookman's holiday and get back to their basic instinct of teaching.

This is the platonic ideal academy, as students and tutors revise in the libraries before breakfast, and everyone actually enjoys working hard. And the end of summer school was celebrated with a wild disco and quite bad behaviour of a cerebral kind.

The Joint Association of Classical Teachers (JACT) set up the first Greek summer school 30 years ago at Bedford College, London. Twenty students came. This August there were 230 students in Bryanston doing beginners', intermediate or advanced (university) Greek.

The beginners' reading competition parades astonishing sophistication from those who had not met a Greek particle in anger a fortnight ago. The advanced classes read Homer and Herodotus as naturally as English, and discuss the idioms

of Menander and whether the *Odyssey* was the first novel with the world's experts.

This summer school now has imitations from Aberystwyth to Durham, and in subjects from mathematics to English literature. Students come from all over the world including Eastern Europe. But most are British young on their way to university.

The teachers turn out for pocket money for the extra work because they feel their subjects squeezed by the national curriculum in the state sector. They also know that their dialogue with the past is a grand discipline, teaching the basic grammar of literature and language of civilisation and life. They are handing on the torch and restoring its roots to education.

It is a rare delight to see a community enjoying very hard work. The *Helen* is a strange play full of tears and laughter and other ambiguities. Even the experts saw new lights in it as performed by bright young people, some of whom had never heard of it a fortnight ago.

Bryanston has a Greek theatre at the bottom of its magnificent gardens. So, this month, Helen and her friends played the ancient drama to owl hoot and pigeon moan. The rain held off. At the climax Castor and Pollux made their appearance at the back of the audience in a coup de theatre. The chorus of schoolgirls dressed in pink as Greek captives threw themselves flat in terror. And Helen sailed off into the mixed press that mythology gives her.

And students and tutors at the Greek summer school sail on into their glittering future of scholarship and life. They know that what they are doing is alpha plus. Observers can see as much. Next term the Open University is starting to teach ancient Greek. They expected to attract 100 students. So far, 500 have signed on. In the old struggle against barbarism, the old classics still have a major part to play.

Learning the art of leadership

Iola Smith meets students with initiative and team spirit

Lack of initiative, leadership and team skills is inhibiting many school leavers' careers, according to a survey of 1,200 executives in Herefordshire.

The finding worried Hawtec (Hereford and Worcester Training and Enterprise Council), which sought ways of introducing such skills to Herefordshire's sixth-formers and college students.

Hawtec turned to the Leadership Trust, a charity that has spent the past 21 years instilling interpersonal and leadership skills into Britain's managers and directors.

The rigours of outdoor adventure challenges, which businesses use to encourage their staff's practical entrepreneurial skills, seemed the ideal challenge for sixth-formers to prove their mettle.

Patrick Cosgrove, Hawtec's head of education and training, went on a Leadership Trust management course, and found it invaluable. "It was one of the formative experiences of my life," he says. "I gained greater knowledge of my capabilities, including self-confidence, and I became more sensitive to other people's strengths and weaknesses."

If such a course could be adapted for young people, Mr Cosgrove reckoned, then it would be the ideal way of introducing the team and leadership skills that the businesses wanted.

The Leadership Trust agreed, and came up with a new "what is entrepreneurship" course for 30 Hereford 16 to 20-year-olds. Focusing on behaviour, relationships and leadership skills in a variety of indoor and outdoor pursuit-style activities, the pilot course ran for four days this summer. It was held at Rhongyr Isaf Centre on the western fringes of the Brecon Beacons in mid-Wales and was welcomed by the participants.

"It was very challenging," says 17-year-old Lisa Dent, of Hereford Sixth Form College. Studying for A levels in PE,



Learning the ropes: students put up a tent at Rhongyr Isaf Centre in mid-Wales

psychology and biology, Lisa has set her sights on being a 200m sprint athlete, and she found both the physical and problem-solving skills useful. "The enthusiasm and encouragement I received has helped my motivation. As important, however, was the experience of working in a team and sharing ideas to solve practical problems." For

'As important ideas to solve problems'

17-year-old Paul Bundy, who is studying A-level history, geography and physics at John Kyrle School, Ross-on-Wye, the course introduces skills that he will need when he embarks on his chosen career of teaching.

"I'd just completed a Duke of Edinburgh gold award course before coming, so fortunately I had experience of some of the physical skills, such as climbing. I was therefore able to lead in climbing activities. But you can also learn from watching different people taking the lead in other projects."

It is these team skills that

Nicki-Jo Goodwin, 17, of Minster Sixth Form College, Leominster, welcomed. "It helps you to respect other people and makes you more willing to listen to their ideas," she says. "The team also brings quiet people out of their shell as they're encouraged to voice their opinion."

In her opinion, confidence-building — "because everybody has a go" — is the course's greatest benefit. After completing her A-level studies in economics and English she has set her sights on a media career. "Getting noticed is what I want," she says. "So the leadership skills I've developed this week should be useful."

Seventeen-year-old Oliver Woolf, of Hereford Sixth Form College, also recognised the course's value to the world of work. Currently studying psychology and PE, he is planning a career in hotel management. "The course will help me to

during the week we've all been egging each other on and helping each other."

The ability to cope with others diplomatically should also prove relevant when dealing with recalcitrant guests. All the participants would recommend the course because of its variety. It encompassed climbing, raft-making and abseiling, with video-making, storytelling and archery competitions.

Throughout the course, it is the youngsters who make the decisions about how to tackle and lead each activity. And after completing each task they reveal their progress to ascertain whether, and if so how, they could have performed better. The course will be reviewed in October when the students return for a short follow-up session.

Mr Cosgrove is convinced that the course should be available to all sixth-formers. The Leadership Trust is confident that other training and enterprise councils, business and education partnerships will want to send students for

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Scottish urban angst is diagnosed in wickedly funny style in *Shining Souls*

■ EDINBURGH

Beautiful dancers lay themselves (almost) bare as Nederlands Dans Theater visits the festival

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ MUSIC

Nicholas Daniel is the soloist in the premiere of John Woolrich's fine Oboe Concerto at the Proms

■ THEATRE

A stunning new jazz cabaret show, *Three Ms Behaving*, opens at the Tricycle

Bonnie Scotland? No, not this one

THEATRE: A bracing brace of plays at the Traverse reveals the droll, desperate face of Scottish urban life to Benedict Nightingale

You get one idea of Scotland if, in search of a souvenir sporrán, you stroll past the bagpiper busking near the Walter Scott monument. You get quite another if, like me, you see Chris Hannan's *Shining Souls* and David Greig's *The Architect* in quick succession at the



Traverse, then maybe go to bed with a copy of *Trainspotting*. The place is falling apart. The Scots, when not going nuts, are inflating the British suicide statistics. As a weary priest remarks, "I've had poverty, drugs, depression, bereavement, bronchitis and sheer bloody misery all day, and I've still to write tomorrow's sermon preaching the good news."

That line comes from *Shining Souls* which, like *The Architect*, makes the current crop of English plays about urban ennui seem a bit southern and soft. But there are also marked differences between the two Scottish pieces. *The Architect* is troubled and rather earnest, *Shining Souls* troubled and very funny indeed.

Consider the odd, overlapping sets of characters who people Hannan's play. Ann

plans to marry someone called Billy this very afternoon, but is not yet sure whether it will be the big, dim Billy who shared her bed last night or the small, romantic Billy who has just turned up with a bunch of flowers. Gambolistic Charlie, a tenner from his estranged wife by pretending he has a terminally sick mother to visit, only to discover that the old lady really is dying. Add Nanette, who runs a stall selling second-hand records that nobody wants, and her friend Prophet John, an Old Testament babbler, and you have Hannan's Glasgow in all its frantic disorder.

With Stuart McQuarrie's marvellously ineffective Charlie blustering and blundering about like an O'Casey hero on speed, Alison Peebles's lubricious Ann eyeing him from inside her wedding togs, and the two Billys suspending hostilities to carry a huge wardrobe across Glasgow, comic lines and incidents are not exactly in short supply. Hannan is also pretty successful when it comes to evoking the drollness of a universe in which, as someone says, "even the galaxies are drifting apart". He falters only when Ann's dead sons, who have fallen victim either to glue-sniffing or to suicidal impulses, enter the emotional equation. He can suggest mess and muddle, maybe even desperation and chaos, but not quite vulnerability and grief.

The Traverse's departing director, Ian Brown, staged this, and his successor, Philip Howard, is responsible for *The Architect*. The evidence of the two productions is that the theatre's standards, high now, will not dip. Certainly Greig's



Alison Peebles and Molly Innes in Chris Hannan's troubled but funny *Shining Souls*

play, though without the sparkling originality of *Shining Souls*, is finely enough acted to generate a grim power of its own.

The architect is Leo Black, whose *chef-d'oeuvre* is a tower complex ("based on Stonehenge") which its own inhabitants are imploring the city council to demolish. If their petition is successful, it would fit the logic of Leo's life, for his family is collapsing too. His callow, mulish son is thinking of running off with a lover he picked up in a public loo. His daughter goes AWOL at night, hitchhiking lifts on lorries to

faraway towns. His wife is suffering from a sort of late-life anorexia which means she is disgusted by food, marriage and Leo himself.

Morag Hood has trouble making this conjugal rejection plausible, for it does not seem very well or clearly motivated. But maybe that is inevitable, given Greig's point — which is that both husbands and planners fail to acknowledge unpredictability and human complexity at their peril. Dark, confused emotions surround Alexander Morton's decent but blinkered architect and, like explosives in one of

his buildings, threaten to lay him low. His rigidity, personal and professional, is destroying him.

That no doubt needs saying, but what makes Greig more than a self-consciously worthy moralist is his handling of his more oddball encounters, notably those between Ashley Jensen's harum-scarum hitchhiker and John Stahl as the big, bovine trucker she sexually teases. There is sensitivity and sadness in their forlorn confidences and failed couplings. Almost as much as Hannan, David Greig is an urban bard to watch.

LONDON THEATRE: Jazz cabaret and crisp comedy

Torch songs to burn holes in your soul

SWISH, sassy and swell. This jazz cabaret show is a mighty enjoyable, accomplished sequel to *Ain't Misbehavin'*. The latter kicked off at the Tricycle and transferred to the West End. Now its stars — Dawn Hope, Debbie Bishop and Melanie E. Marshall — are back in this intimate theatre. Dressed to kill in their cocktail dresses, they work through songs by Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein and Irving Berlin, to name only a few.

The Three Ms are black women's answer to *Fascinating Aida*. Directed and choreographed by the award-winning Gillian Gregory, they don't put a foot wrong. Hope is a joy, especially when she jives, elegantly slender yet raunchily fit. *Strutting and sinu-*

ously, she is dead sexy and still sweet. Her charisma is the magnetic core of the show. Marshall, if less wild on the dancefloor (a fact Gregory works round very adroitly), has a voice to stop you in your tracks: sometimes pellucid, sometimes richly resonant, drawing on plantation

Three Ms Behaving Tricycle, NW6

and gospel roots. When she sings Irving Berlin's *Say It Isn't So*, the lower blues wind sensually like the Mississippi, brimming with sorrow.

At moments the trio's harmonising, arranged by Clement Ishmael, complemented by chiming piano and thrumming double bass, is so electric you can feel your hair rising. Loud applause, too, for Simon King and his wraparound, warmly vibrant amplification system.

The set's white lounge, with palm trees printed across the sofa and bar, is not as classy as the act. The lighting compensates, however, silhouetting the ladies against Deep South skies: pure blue, purpling, blazing yellow. There is no narrative to speak of, just one number segueing seamlessly into the next with an occasional interlude of free verse.

However, an embryonic story does emerge. Whether

they are on the champs circuit or in some drawing New Orleans dive, the singers acquire the characters of three drinking companions. One chorus-line routine meshes wittily with a drama as Bishop darts in and out between her coolly coordinated buddies, squinting ferociously at her beau who is apparently behaving abysmally in some dark corner of the joint.

The ladies' opening numbers suggest dames with their eyes on big bucks. They move on to desiring marriage. New Women they ain't, but they do know what they want. The central clutch of songs gives voice to the pain of women being ill-treated, cheated on, given the push. They pull through, growing more feistily led-up and eventually upbeat.

But the darker songs are unforgettable. *Can't We Be Friends*, with its rhyming couplets anticipating being jilted, is too often dismissed as a shallow ditty. Bishop takes this song by the throat and makes it ring true.

KATE BASSETT

They belong in a home

THE first version of Christopher Durang's play lasted 45 minutes, and such hopeful thespians as Sigourney Weaver and Meryl Streep played the mothers-in-law. As you may guess, this was some time ago — 21 years, in fact.

The extended version, an hour longer, played at the Tabard, Turnham Green, in 1987 but apparently nowhere in Britain since, until the Canadian-born Michael Cowie mounted this production for the Totally Portable Theatre at the Latchmere. It transfers to Edinburgh next week.

The long neglect for Durang's crisply funny hatchet job on a set of terrible parents may be partly because it calls for a cast of ten, plus a cello for Emily to play at Bette's wedding. I became increasingly fond of poor Aunt Emily as the family calamities piled up around her. Too overcome with nerves to put how to strings at the big moment,

The Marriage of Bette and Boo Latchmere, SW11

she spends the following years writing notes of apology to her relatives, further notes apologising for previous notes, and eventually issues a general letter of culpability to the world at large. Alison Baker amusingly plays her like an anxious mouse.

In a style resembling a lecture-hall demonstration Durang's narrator/hero (Trey Lyford, wryly dismayed) presents scenes from the family history: the gushing grandmothers; the one grandfather who contributes coarse jokes, the other who lacks the palate to add consonants to his cataract of vowels.

Crisp disrespect for misfortune characterises Durang's writing. Resentful

doctors toss Bette's stillborn infants on to the stage like lumps of Playdoh. "How are you feeling after your tragedy?" asks one sister of another. These are characters who say exactly what they feel but whose feelings are revealed to be woefully bounded by convention.

Cowie's able production uses a minimalist set that lives up to the company's name: six white boxes against black walls. Anabel Mansel's Bette, frantically confessional, is a memorable terror, draping the world with her smiles and deafening her husband (Derek Parker) with non-stop nagging. She also allows us to see the pathos of the character, the pain beneath her idiocies.

Charlotte Phillips gives her mother-in-law Soot (originally the Weaver role) a splendidly desperate laugh, like a peal of tin bells.

JEREMY KINGSTON

In thrall to the movement of emotion

Ran for the past 20 years by the Czech-born Jiri Kylian, the Hague-based Nederlands Dans Theater has grown from strength to strength, so that it now encompasses three companies in one. Britain has recently seen NDT 2 and 3; now it is the turn of the main company to pay us a rare visit.

All but one of the seven pieces on show in two programmes at Edinburgh are by Kylian. The first programme offers him as he was in 1978, and as he is nearly two decades later. *Bella Figura* was made last year, "a journey in time, light and space, addressing the ambiguity of aesthetics, performances and dreams". Kylian has a weakness for such lofty self-justification.

More specifically, *Bella Figura* sets out to conjure up a twilight zone between fantasy and reality, dreaming and waking. A large black curtain defines the performing space by making it both bigger and smaller; lighting is used to make figures dissolve. The dancers —

DANCE
Nederlands Dans Theater
Playhouse, Edinburgh

often half-naked — are trapped in an endless tension of uncertainty. Despite the fascination with doubt in *Bella Figura*'s philosophical conception, its choreographic realisation is firmly rooted in Kylian's aesthetic certainty. He has beautiful dancers in his company and no matter how contorted he asks them to be, how inelegant, they always emerge as creatures of extraordinary grace and balletic perfection. Without this, the intellectual immodesty of *Bella Figura* would be insufferable.

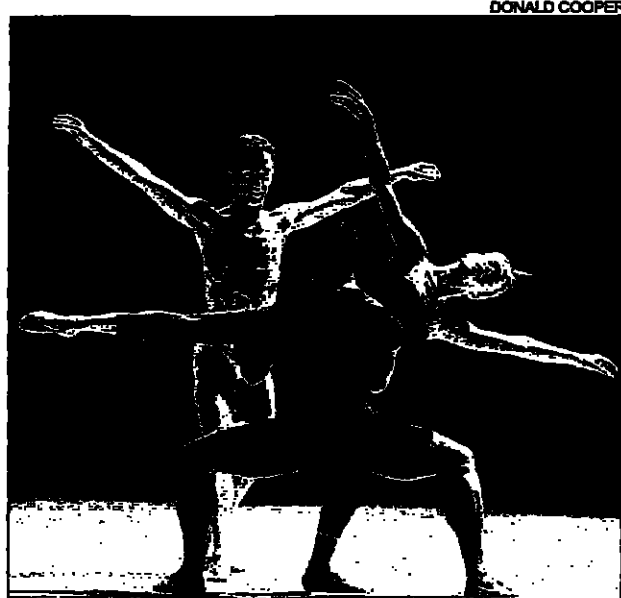
The music — selections from Lukas Foss and Italian Baroque — was taped, as all the music was for programme one.

Kylian seems to choose his scores for their emotive atmospheres; only rarely does he directly refer to musical specifics in his choreography.

When he does, as in his seminal *Symphony of Psalms* from 1978, the result can be captivating. Stravinsky's invocation to praise the Lord with dance is met with a fervent folding and unfolding of the ensemble in voluptuous and seamlessly constructed phrases. Kylian takes this work beyond the realm of the strictly religious; it is faith in the human spirit that is being celebrated here.

Start to Finish, by Kylian's British-born protégé Paul Lightfoot, was another matter. Musical piracy, scenic clutter, conceptual self-importance, misjudged humour and movement non-sequiturs all mar Lightfoot's choreography. What his purpose was in making this work remains a mystery.

DEBRA CRAINE



"Addressing the ambiguity of aesthetics, performances and dreams": Nederlands Dans Theater's *Bella Figura*

LONDON CONCERTS: An oboe concerto premiered at the Proms; and a lively Baroque show on the South Bank

Too good for the dustbin

JOHN WOOLRICH has had two major works premiered this summer. After the cool reception given to his opera *In the House of Crossed Desires* at Cheltenham it is good to report the success of his new Oboe Concerto. It is well composed, for once not in the pejorative sense: lasting a little over 20 minutes, its single movement is divided into clearly contrasting sections, thematic material is tightly but not predictably organised, and it is always arresting.

Indeed, Woolrich's scoring is striking. He does not attempt to balance fragile oboe sound with a full orchestra, but makes a feature of their unequal strengths. Not surprisingly, the orchestra wins this contest: in the closing bars a haunting oboe solo is snuffed out, bludgeoned by

BBC SO/Bamert
Albert Hall / Radio 3

poser calls for a massive percussion battery that includes tin cans, dustbin, oxygen cylinder, car wheels, anvil and "lion's roar".

The noisiest are deployed at a cacophonous climax while other instruments scream out an anguished melody in unison. Elsewhere Woolrich gives the solo oboe help, surrounding it with a protective blanket of other winds which play, concerto grosso-like, separately from the main orchestra.

Perhaps only so skilled a player as Nicholas Daniel could have made the piece sound effortless. The oboe lines are jagged and reach across the instrument's range.

balanced by long sustained notes. Matthias Bamert steered the BBC Symphony Orchestra through the work's shifting pulses impressively.

In the programme designed around a composer given to quotation — as it happens, there is none in the new piece — all three other works were homages. Vaughan Williams's *Tallis Fantasia* was played with warmth but lacked spirituality, and even if ensemble had been better in Stokowski's version of Bach's organ *Passacaglia* and Fugue in C minor it would probably still have sounded turgid. But Bamert conducted Schoenberg's version of Brahms's *First Piano Quartet* with feeling, making it sound like an additional (only better orchestrated) Brahms symphony.

THE programme Florilegium, one of the most flamboyant of the younger generation of British Baroque ensembles, brought to the South Bank's early music festival was entitled *L'Europe Galant*. It offered a survey of musical style in the 18th century, with works by Telemann, Leclair, Vivaldi, Corrette, Rameau and Johann Bernhard Bach, second cousin of J.S. Of these pieces, the Vivaldi was decidedly the odd one out in terms of style, his Trio Sonata in D minor — a set of variations on *La Follia* — displaying none of the *galant* idiom that marked the rest of the programme.

The Vivaldi also drew the most exaggerated playing from Florilegium, which pushed each variation to the edge in a rousing performance made more colourful still by the use of the Baroque guitar and special effects such as

No time for the sedate

Florilegium
Queen Elizabeth Hall

It was something of a relief to shift into the gentler idiom of a flute concerto in D by Leclair and Telemann's Paris Quartet No 3 in A. Here the ensemble's flair was much in evidence without having recourse to extreme gestures. In the opening movement of the Leclair Ashley Solomon trilled away deliciously, and the whole was appropriately elegant without ever being bland.

on this occasion by restricting the accompaniment of the solo flute entries to cello and theorbo. The switch from the cello to the softer-grained viola da gamba for the Telemann also enhanced its quintessentially *galant* idiom.

In these quartets, the urbane Telemann, inspired by a visit to Paris, displays something of the sheer elegance of the French Baroque embodied in the music of his near-contemporary Rameau, but Rameau, even in the character pieces that comprise his *Pieces de Clavecin en Concerts*, always manages to hint at greater depth. This was beautifully played in a direct and unfussy manner.

The fireworks returned for Corrette's arrangement of a couple of Rameau's themes in the *Concerto Comique* No 25. Here the special effects were written into the music and Florilegium could really let on

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POP 1

At the age of 13, could LeAnn Rimes be the new, polished face of country music?



POP 2

Love is a many-anguished thing, at least as documented on a Throwing Muses lyric

THE TIMES POP ARTS



POP 3

Manic punk intensity wedded to literate lyrics? It must mean the return of Nick Cave



TOMORROW

From Wagner to the tango: Daniel Barenboim talks about his remarkable new passion

Southern fried spring chicken

Alan Jackson
on LeAnn Rimes,
a successful
country singer
at the age of 13

I used to be said that advanced age was upon you when policemen began to look young. Nowadays anyone older than 20 is apt to feel geriatric when watching tennis stars or gymnasts. And it seems that we must add popular music stars to the list of precocious high achievers.

Not too long ago, rock seemed in danger of becoming a middle-aged pursuit for those who had break-downs, break-ups, rehab, come-backs and country estates to their names. If the successive waves of grunge, shoegazing and Britpop have proved anything, though, it is that Huey Lewis was wrong. It is definitely not hip to be square.

Yet while spring chickens such as the Gallagher brothers and Alanis Morissette flaunt their youth, someone more junior still is making headlines in America. Currently top of the American album charts is the young black rapper Nas. Behind him stands Morissette, who has just turned 22. Hot on their heels at No 3, though, is a singer whose voice and image is perfectly in tune with the prevailing retro-mood of American country music, yet who is just 13 years old.

The promotional video sent out to the British media to introduce us to LeAnn Rimes is so strange, so uniquely American, that it could almost be a satire scripted and directed by Robert Altman. It offers us footage of the Mississippi-born, Dallas-raised singer dressed up like a wedding cake and performing to roaring crowds at the age of five. And it contains testimony from record company personnel to how this preternaturally mature child — she is groomed like a cosmetics saleswoman, with the professional charm of an air stewardess — sounds uncannily like the late C&W icon Patsy Cline (at moments, it is true, she does).

Rimes is country's first teen sensation since 1972, when Tanya Tucker had a debut hit with *Delta Dawn*. These days Tucker, after weathering the storms in her personal life, is a successful Nashville star who has just sold the rights to her autobiography for almost \$1 million.

Will Rimes be as lucky? If anything, her progress towards



With her album *Blue* riding high in the American charts, LeAnn is being hailed as a worthy successor to the late, great Patsy Cline

stable adulthood could be more difficult. Although Tucker's worldly-wise voice and ingenué charm brought her an unexpected place on the cover of *Rolling Stone* within her first year as a public figure, her hits have remained confined to the country market. Last week, Rimes's album *Blue* was at No 3 in the *Billboard* pop chart. Child stardom is nothing new, of course. But from Petula Clark to Michael Jackson to Lena Zavaroni, those subjected to its pressures have been forced to wrestle with demons along the way. Not all are lucky enough to survive in a state that permits an adult career.

At least Rimes will have such examples from which to learn. And it would seem that she, as well as

her parents and her label, Curb, is a driving force in her own extraordinary success story. She won her first talent show at the age of five and, thrilled by the reception accorded her, announced to her parents that she wanted a career in showbusiness. Many fathers would have given their daughter a dismissive pat. Instead, Wilbur Rimes sold the truck with which he made his living to finance the family's move to Texas, home of the C&W establishment. LeAnn is said to have been runner-up for the lead in a Broadway production of *Annie* at six. At eight, she won two weekly heats of American television's *Opportunity Knocks* equivalent, *Star Search*. Ever since she has been honing her craft through

live appearances across the southern states. The song which has won her those comparisons with Patsy Cline, meanwhile, is the title track of her new LP, *Blue*. The much-seized-upon media hook is that it was written 35 years ago by a country music DJ, Bill Mack, who hoped that Cline herself might record it. The singer was killed shortly afterwards in a plane crash and the track lay dormant, so it is said, until Mack heard the uncanny echo in Rimes's voice as she sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* before a Dallas Cowboys football game.

The parent album presents her as something more than just a soundalike or a novelty artist,

though. Her tones are big, smooth and sure, and if she shows few real interpretive skills, that is hardly surprising. Says her father, "Once she gets her heart broke, look out." Meanwhile, if she feels the need for additional guidance as her career goes into overdrive, Rimes might do worse than look to Morissette. She, too, released her first record while a pre-teen and enjoyed fame of a more limited sort as a Canadian pop-dance star while still at school. Her revulsion at having been preened and packaged for mass consumption finally surfaced on the album *Jagged Little Pill* — and, ironically, brought her today's multi-platinum status.

● The album *Blue* will be released in Britain by Curb on Aug 27

Love is the drug for me

Throwing Muse Kristin Hersh swaps angst and callow cravings for a fix of the strong stuff: uncut adoration

Oh, the high aching drama of being in love... is nothing compared to the daily obsessions of *Being A Lover*. Being "in love" is the first six months, the first year, maybe — too polite to argue, too in awe to get really dirty. Being in love is all treats and prizes and explosions — each day an anniversary, each night a party. Being in love is as easy as falling off a log. Easier, in fact, since most logs now have stringent safety precautions owing to EU directives.

Being A Lover, on the other hand, is the real deal. A touch of the hard stuff. After two years of sleeping and waking tangled around each other, you're so close that there's no need for the thrill of acting or pretending any more: the bathroom door stays open. Your lingerie stays in the drawer. Children appear. The house slowly falls down around you and you never really seem to "do" anything any more, but there's the glory in this twinning — to see just how entirely you can sleep together. To see how much love you can make. When Bjork spoke recently of her relationship with Goldie, she said: "We go to bed at night, and when we wake there's 59 tons of love." It's something you sense that Kristin Hersh would understand implicitly.

"Billy [her husband/manager] always knows just what to do," Hersh says, a beaming grin confirming it. "He fires me up, raises my temperature until I'm burning and delicious and molten. Then he gives me a little sip of ice water, just a little, until I'm cool and calm. And then he blows on the flames again."

Having spent the past ten years of her Throwing Muses' career documenting the chemical switchback of schizophrenia, and the confusing territories of the body, Hersh's muse has moved on to the swampy, sensuous ground of her long-term relationship. She, too, is caught in the shark-jaws of loving so much it hurts. "Why do I like

you?/Because I'd kill to be you" she croons at one point, setting the pace for the rest of the album. *Limbo*, the Muses' eighth album, is a deep, lush treat, driven by the pounding clockwork of the body's rhythms and steered by Hersh's purring, roaring poetry. Her voice slides from nought to sixty in a second — here like a comforting breast; there like fingernails across the back.

Hersh has spoken before about seeing love as a feverish, sweating drug: the first kiss is the first hit, and after that you come back and back again, increasing the dose, until you suddenly have teapots with "Happy 50th Anniversary" scrolled on them in gold. Deep, lion-strong, love is such an everyday miracle that you don't get shocked by it any more — but *Limbo* serves to remind you anew of the awe of it. "Having children is a good reminder," Hersh reasons. "Well, a good reminder there was nothing on TV that night. I'm pregnant at the moment, and it's weird — a mix of being more animal and more spiritual."

"I'm obsessed with grapefruit. I went into an office last week and there was a cardboard mobile of grapefruit hanging from the ceiling. I was a drooling animal — I wanted to eat them so badly. Billy knows he can get me to do anything if he waves a grapefruit at me — he's talking about getting the record company to pay me in fruit, he figures it'll motivate me more." Hersh twinkles across the room at her husband — a warm, children-and-house-and-work-and-rest smile. Later in the day, during a radio session, she will smile again at him, while singing "You lock the cuffs in your pocket around my wrists/I'll even let you pretend that I didn't resist" — a tiger-hungry smile, a dark-and-sticky-nights smile. And in the territory between these two smiles lies the genius of Kristin Hersh.

● *Limbo* is released by 4AD. Throwing Muses tour Britain in October



CAITLIN MORAN

● Pop and jazz record reviews are on Page 32

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LIVE GIG

Ballads of fire and brimstone

Nick Cave
Brixton Academy

EVERYBODY wore black at Brixton, crowd and band alike. Everybody except Nick Cave, that is, proudly prowling the stage in his shiny silver lounge suit. The singer's core audience of vampiric misfits and grey-templed Bohemians clearly have some catching up to do, because Nick is already halfway to Las Vegas.

Although he emerged from Australia's late 1970s punk scene with his primal junk-blues band The Birthday Party, Cave has pursued a different muse since forming the Bad Seeds in the early 1980s. Bespoke suits, crafted balladry and literate lyrics have become his hallmarks, with a clear lineage back through Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan to early Presley and even Sinatra.

But while he technically counts Elvis Costello and Paul Weller as his generational peers, Cave retains a manic punk intensity far removed from cosy elder statesman status. With a stage persona somewhere between demonic storyteller and hellfire preacher, he wrings every last drop of visual drama from these fraught, ragged narratives. His volatile charisma is the driving force behind any Bad Seeds show, a quality which allows the band credibly to conjure up savage new hybrids from ancient musical forms such as blues, jazz and folk.

Indeed, their opening salvo at Brixton was a raked update of traditional folk yarn *Stagger Lee*, given a sadistically homoerotic twist and propelled by a pounding primitive beat.

With this song from the

al tone was set, lurching further into dementia with the brutally powerful voodoo incantation of *From Her to Eternity*.

Boasting probably the richest poetic vocabulary in rock, Cave's lyrical universe is one of Old Testament extremes, a fallen world steeped in sin and suffering. He appears to view life as eternal torment with only the balm of love, emotional or spiritual, offering temporary relief.

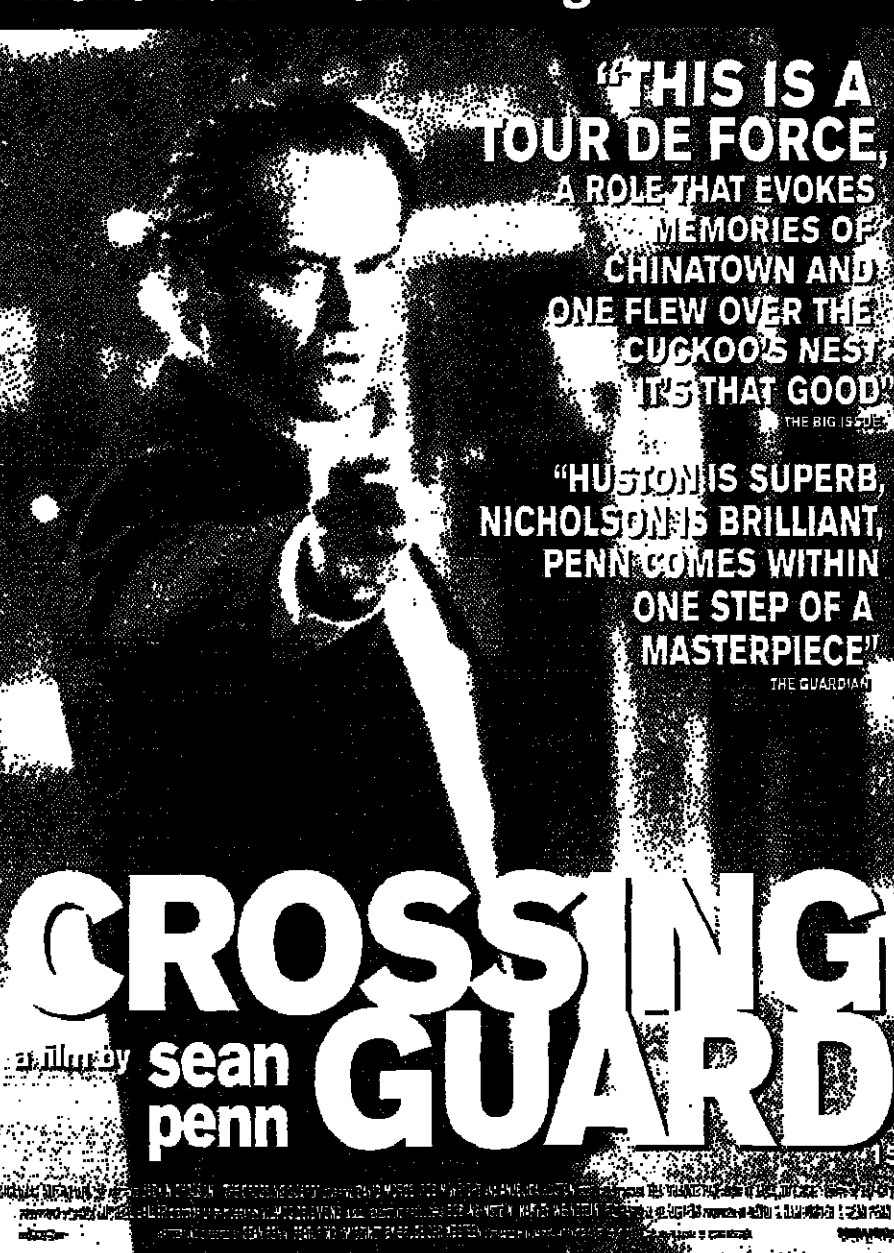
At Brixton, though, even romantic ballads such as the riveting *Loverman* became gnashing maelstroms topped off with doomy church bells, a ravaged portrait of love as destructive force of nature. Yet this is a world view with undeniable cult appeal, especially since Cave's relentless nihilism is tempered by an understated but ever-present black humour.

The second half of the show, however, lost momentum. There were electrifying set pieces, such as Cave's rapturously received duet with Kylie Minogue on *Where the Wild Roses Grow* and his howlingly deranged descent into a condemned man's mind in *The Mercy Seat*. But a brace of low-key new tunes faltered slightly, as did the ill-advised final stab at the 15-minute massacre ballad *O'Malley's Bar*, which was finally put out of its misery halfway through by an apologetic Cave. An anticlimactic end, but the Bad Seeds still make one of the most potent rackets in rock.

jack nicholson david morse robin wright anjelica houston

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Russell Kempson predicts the finishing order in the Premiership this season

United retain look of champions



Alex Ferguson's initial summer shopping produced a star, a young, exciting, blond-haired Dutchman known as Jordi during his time at Barcelona (he should have signed for Newcastle, surely) and Poyborsky, a straggly-haired Czech christened Karel by parents who clearly wanted a daughter. Much better, Alex — a promising pair from the top shelves of Europe. The Premiership is there for the taking, again, as long as Keane can cut through the red mist and a potentially lengthy European Cup campaign does not prove unduly taxing. Yet Cantona as captain whiffs of danger — remember his nonsense in the Charity Shield. Mind your own business, maestro.

MANAGER: Alex Ferguson (appointed Nov 1986).

TRANSFERS: In: R van der Gouw (Vitesse Arnhem, free), O Solskjaer (Molde, £1.5m), R Johnson (Barnsley, £1.2m), K Poyborsky (Slavia Prague, £3.5m), J Cruyff (Barcelona, £1.2m). Out: S Bruce (Birmingham City, free), P Parker (Derby County, free), A Cohen (Sunderland, £350,000), I Sharpe (Leeds United, £1.5m).

1995-96 RECORD: League: champions. FA Cup: winners. Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, P Schmeichel; 2, G Neville; 3, D Irwin; 4, D May; 5, G Pallister; 7, E Cantona; 8, N Butt; 9, A Cole; 10, D Beckham; 11, R Giggs; 12, P Neville; 13, B McClair; 14, J Cruyff; 15, K Poyborsky; 16, R Keane; 17, R van der Gouw; 18, P Scholze; 19, R Johnson; 20, O Solskjaer; 21, P McGilchrist; 22, S Davies; 23, B Thornley; 24, J O'Kane; 25, K Pilkington; 26, C Casper; 27, T Cook.

Championship odds: 13-8.



Liverpool ran out of puff, or willpower, towards the end of last season, only three wins from their closing eight fixtures condemning them to third place. Not a bad consolation yet, with a distinct lack of silverware in every other department, nowhere near good enough by Anfield standards.

Still, another UEFA Cup foray to what the appetite—who can forget the cockroach crawlies of Vladikavkaz last September? — and Roy Evans grows in stature with every tactical ploy precisely executed and each simmering row quietly defused. The absence of Rush will make no difference, his absence having been a consistent feature of 95-96, but Collymore and Fowler will have a job reproducing 55 goals. Redknapp at last has a teen idol rival in Berger, his new and irritatingly handsome Czech mate.

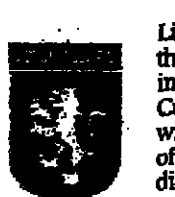
MANAGER: Roy Evans (appointed Jan 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: P Berger (Borussia Dortmund, £3m), Out: 1 Rush (Leeds, free), L Brydon (Darlington, free), D Clegg (Hartlepool, free), S Pears (Hartlepool, free), I Foster (Hartlepool, free).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 3rd. FA Cup: finalists. Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, D James; 2, R Jones; 3, J Scales; 4, J McAteer; 5, M Wright; 6, P Babb; 7, S McManaman; 8, S Collymore; 9, R Fowler; 10, J Barnes; 11, J Rodknapp; 12, S Harkness; 13, T Warner; 14, N Ruddock; 16, M Thomas; 18, P Charnock; 19, M Kennedy; 20, S I Bjornstjerne; 21, D Mancoske; 24, L Jones; 25, D Thompson.

Championship odds: 7-2.



Little change at Villa Park during the summer recess, apart from the inspirational procurement of Curcio from Bolton Wanderers, with Brian Little banking on most of those who served him so splendidly last time out. The life of Brian was eminently enjoyable in his first full term at the helm, with fourth place in the Premiership, an FA Cup semi-final and an emphatic Coca-Cola Cup triumph against Leeds United, and, consequently, qualification for the UEFA Cup. More important, it soothed the fevered brow of Doug Ellis, his chairman, whose penchant for managerial scapegoats is legendary. Much will depend on how the weary joints of McGrath can cope with another campaign, Southgate's ability to shrug off a recurring nightmare and the darting thrusts of Yorke. If Milosevic can return his radar, too, Deadly Doug will be purring like a kitten.

MANAGER: Brian Little (appointed Nov 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: F Nelson (Spartan, £1.75m), S Curcio (Bolton Wanderers, £4m). Out: None.

1995-96 RECORD: League: 4th. FA Cup: semi-finals. Coca-Cola Cup: winners.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, M Bosnich; 2, G Charles; 3, S Staunton; 4, G Southgate; 5, P McGrath; 6, A Townsend; 7, I Taylor; 8, M Draper; 9, S Milosevic; 10, D Yorke; 11, T Johnson; 12, J Joachim; 13, M Oakes; 14, A Wright; 15, F Nelson; 16, U Ehiogu; 17, L Hendrie; 18, C Tiller; 19, G Farrelly; 20, R Scimeca; 21, F Carr; 22, P King; 23, N Davis; 24, S Murray; 25, S Curcio.

Championship odds: 25-1.



Howard Wilkinson survived by the skin of his teeth last season and, having done so, has set about revamping a squad as lethargic and unimaginative as any seen at Elland Road for many years. The loss of McAllister may prove awkward, but the departure of Speed, one of the Premiership's great underachievers, is an irrelevance; only by moving could he hope to rediscover his undoubted, yet rarely witnessed, talent. Wilkinson has brought in Martyn, Sharpe, Bowyer and Rush, with many an expert eagerly awaiting confirmation of Bowyer's graduation from teenage stardom to mature performer.

MANAGER: Howard Wilkinson (appointed Oct 1988).

TRANSFERS: In: I Rush (Liverpool, free), L Bowyer (Charlton, £2.6m), N Martyn (Crystal Palace, £2.25m), L Sharpe (Man Utd, £4.5m). Out: G Speed (Everton, £3.5m), G McAllister (Coventry, £3m), J Lukic (Aston Villa, free), S Heath (Carlisle, free), A Brown (Hull, free).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 13th. FA Cup: 6th round. Coca-Cola Cup: finalists.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, N Martyn; 2, G Kelly; 3, A Dorigo; 4, C Palmer; 5, L Radebe; 6, D Wetherall; 7, L Sharpe; 8, R Wallace; 9, I Rush; 10, B Deane; 11, L Bowyer; 12, J Pemberton; 14, A Gray; 15, M Beesley; 16, R Johnson; 17, M Tindler; 19, H Kewell; 20, J Hart; 21, A Yeboah; 22, M Ford; 23, A Couzens; 24, J Blunt; 25, R Bowman; 26, P Beesley; 27, A Maybury; 28, P Shepherd; 29, M Jackson; 30, M Foster; 32, A Wright; 34, P Evans; 35, L Davies; 36, T Brodie.

Championship odds: 50-1.



Newcastle's tear-stained title capitulation, from February onwards, earned widespread sympathy. A large majority of football supporters across the country would have preferred the Premiership crown to go anywhere but Old Trafford again. Yet, since Shearer's inflated £15 million homecoming and ludicrously stage-managed arrival at St James' Park, perhaps a mood swing can be detected. Did not the neutrals wallow in Newcastle's 4-0 humiliation in the Charity Shield at Wembley? Call it envy, jealousy, whatever, but was there not a smirk or two at such a swift fall from grace of the Geordie bandwagon? Kevin Keegan's millionaire musketeers will entertain and invigorate — right through the season; probably in Europe, too. Unless he finds the right mix, though, especially in a cut-throat defence, there are likely to be many more distraught faces on Tyneside come the championship run-in.

MANAGER: Kevin Keegan (appointed Feb 1992).

TRANSFERS: In: A Shearer (Blackburn, £15m).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 2nd. FA Cup: 3rd round. Coca-Cola Cup: 5th round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, P Smicic; 2, W Barton; 3, J Beresford; 4, D Barry; 5, D Peacock; 6, S Howey; 7, R Lee; 8, P Beardsley; 9, A Shearer; 10, L Ferdinand; 11, F Asprilla; 14, D Ginola; 15, S Hiskob; 16, D Huckerby; 17, J Crawford; 18, K Gillespie; 19, S Watson; 20, L Clarke; 24, C Holland; 25, P Bryson; 26, R Elliott; 27, P Albert; 28, F Kison; 29, S Harper.

Championship odds: 15-8.



Gary Mabbutt goes on and on, into his fifteenth season at the club, and so does Tottenham's wait for another trophy. It is unlikely to end this season unless their liking for the FA Cup is rediscovered for the first time since 1991. Then again, the year does not end in the figure 1, their favourite numerical omen, so perhaps the sound of gnashing teeth, as well as strangled cockerels, will continue to dominate the airwaves around White Hart Lane, at least until 2001. Alan Sugar has kept his chairman's purse well hidden but the capture of Nielsen, the Denmark international, has disproved the theory that he has been suffering from acute xenophobia since Klinsmann's glorious, yet all-too-brief, stay in NW7. Tying Gerry Francis to a long-term contract, at last, was Sugar's best business for ages.

MANAGER: Gerry Francis (appointed Nov 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: A Nielsen (Brondby, £1.6m), E Beardsen (San Francisco Blackwings, free), Out: S Slade (Queens Park Rangers, £350,000), R Simpson (Barnsley, undisclosed), C Day (Crystal Palace, £225,000).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 8th. FA Cup: 5th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, I Walker; 2, D Austin; 3, J Edinburg; 4, D Howells; 5, C Calderwood; 6, G Mabbutt; 7, R Fox; 8, A Nielsen; 9, D Anderson; 10, E Sheringham; 11, C Armstrong; 12, J Doherty; 13, E Beardsen; 14, S Nethercott; 15, C Wilson; 16, R Rosenfield; 17, A Turner; 18, G McMahon; 19, K Scott; 20, D Hill; 22, D Kerslake; 23, S Campbell; 24, J Cundy; 25, S Carr; 26, P Mahon; 27, A Smith.

Championship odds: 25-1.



Southall's summer of discontent, no doubt brought on by the arrival of Gerrard from Oldham, could rumble on long into the new campaign. If it culminates in Nev eventually moving on and joining a new, less illustrious branch of the goalkeeping union, Gerrard will have distinguished boots to fill. He should do admirably. Everton overcame an awful start — only two victories in their opening 11 fixtures — to finish sixth, a fitting reward for Joe Royle's sharp organisational sense. Speed is grossly overvalued at £3.5 million, but, in today's crazy market, buyers have little option but to agree to the telephone number-sized transfer fees if they want to compete at the highest level. Having received the Royle seal of approval, Speed has much to repay.

MANAGER: Joe Royle (appointed Nov 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: G Speed (Leeds United, £3.5m), P Gerrard (Oldham Athletic, £1.5m). Out: B Horne (Birmingham City, £250,000), G Ablett (Birmingham City, £400,000), M Woods (Chester City, free), D Amokachi (Barnsley, £1.5m).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 6th. FA Cup: 4th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 2nd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, N Southall; 2, E Barrett; 3, A Hindcliff; 4, D Unsworth; 5, D Watson; 7, G Stuart; 8, P Ridenour; 9, D Ferguson; 10, G Speed; 11, A Linpar; 13, J Keaton; 14, J Ebbrell; 15, M Jackson; 16, V Samways; 17, A Kanehalski; 18, J Parkinson; 19, M Hottinger; 20, A Grant; 21, C Short; 22, P Holcroft; 23, M Brannan; 24, J O'Connor; 25, N Moon; 26, G Allen; 27, M Grugel; 28, C Price; 29, G McCann; 30, R Townsend; 31, P Gerrard; 32, R Tynan; 33, J Speare; 34, E Hussin; 35, J Hills.

Championship odds: 25-1.



Barely 14 months have elapsed since the last shock, horror, probe at Highbury and then, bingo, Bruce Rioch is on his bike, five days before the Premiership opens. It is somehow sad to see that a club steeped in such rich tradition can be reduced to little more than unfathomable soap opera. OK, so Wright and a few others were not too enamoured by Rioch or his methods, but to lose one successful manager is careless, to lose another, so soon after, is inexcusable. Whatever the underlying problems, perhaps a wholesale hierarchical clear-out might be better than, again, simply replacing the team figurehead. A UEFA Cup campaign lies ahead, suggesting that Rioch was not all bad, but the ageing process at Highbury has still to be properly addressed. And who are Gardie and Vieira?

MANAGER: To be appointed.

TRANSFERS: In: V Gislason (Fram, Reykjavik, undisclosed fee), J Lukic (Leeds, free), R Gardie (Strasbourg, free), P Vieira (AC Milan, £3.5m). Out: None.

1995-96 RECORD: League: 5th. FA Cup: 3rd round. Coca-Cola Cup: semi-finals.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, D Seaman; 2, L Dixon; 3, N Winterburn; 5, S Bouli; 6, A Adams; 7, D Platt; 8, I Wright; 9, P Merson; 10, D Benjamins; 11, G Helder; 12, A Linington; 13, V Bartram; 14, M Keown; 15, R Parlor; 16, J Hartson; 17, D Hillier; 18, S Morrow; 20, C Kiwomya; 21, E McGoldrick; 22, I Selley; 23, P Dickow; 24, J Lukic; 25, S Marshall; 26, L Harper; 27, P Shaw; 28, S Hughes; 29, A Clarke; 30, G McGowan; 31, M Rose; R Gardie; P Vieira.

Championship odds: 14-1.



To be young, promising and English at Upton Park these days provides little hope, apparently, of getting into the first team, such is Harry Redknapp's infatuation with foreign bodies. Small wonder that many junior Hammers are reported to be taking lessons in Croatian, Romanian, Danish and Portuguese. It might just give them a shout. Redknapp's overdose of overseas talent is bold and bright — a multilingual, multiskilled exercise in international relations — and it could produce beautiful results. Just as easily it could end in numbing anticlimax, such as last season, with nothing to fight for and nothing to escape from. Williamson, London born and bred, still looks a fine prospect if he can keep his place in midfield among the cross-border invaders.

MANAGER: Harry Redknapp (appointed Aug 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: P Futre (AC Milan, free), R Hall (Southampton, £1.4m), F Raducioiu (Espanol, £2.4m), M Hughes (Strasbourg, free), M Bowen (Norwich City, free), Out: A Martin (Leyton Orient, free), L Sealey (Leyton Orient, free), M McPherson (Brentford, undisclosed), D Gordon (Bournemouth, free).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 10th. FA Cup: 4th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, L Mikosko; 2, T Breacker; 3, J Dicks; 4, S Potts; 5, R Hall; 6, D Williamson; 7, I Bishop; 8, M Rieper; 9, A Cottle; 10, J Moncur; 11, F Raducioiu; 12, K Rowland; 14, I Dowie; 15, R Brown; 16, P Fure; 17, S Lazaridis; 18, I Dumitrescu; 19, R Slater; 20, M Bowen; 22, A Whitbread; 23, S Jones; 24, M Hughes; 26, F Lampard; 27, R Ferdinand; 28, S Bile; 30, S Manton; 31, N Finn.

Championship odds: 100-1.



Joe Kinnear trekked into deepest Russia during the summer, looking for the next Vinhal Jeneski to carry on the Crazy Gang tradition. He visited Scandinavia, too, until he realised that Lars Bo Derek, a long-time object of his admiration, had recently been transferred to Hollywood Hotspur for £10 million. Pipped again, Joe. He was quoted saying money, anyway, and politely declined, so Wimbledown will embark on their eleventh successive season in the top flight with only Thatcher, Ben not Mark, and Jupp having been enlisted into the Selhurst Park ranks. Last season was a disappointment, with the Gang scrambling around near the relegation zone for a while, but their renowned spirit got them safely through. They will claim a few more prized scalps during 96-97, even if the spectacle is often unsightly.

MANAGER: Joe Kinnear (appointed Mar 1992).

TRANSFERS: In: D Jupp (Pulham, £200,000), B Thatcher (Millwall, £2m). Out: S Talboys (Watford, free), I Piper (Gillingham, £65,000), G Dobbs (Lincoln, non-contract).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 14th. FA Cup: 6th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 2nd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, N Sullivan; 2, K Cunningham; 3, A Kimble; 4, V Jones; 5, D Blackwell; 6, B Thatcher; 7, O Leonardson; 8, R Earle; 9, E Ekoku; 10, D Holdsworth; 11, M Gayle; 12, C Perry; 13, P Hinch; 14, J Goodman; 15, A Reeves; 16, A Thorn; 17, B McAllister; 18, N Ardley; 19, S Castledine; 20, M Harford; 21, D Jupp; 22, A Clarke; 23, J Euell; 24, P Fear; 25, A Pearce.

Championship odds: 250-1.



How much more idolatry can be heaped on Ruud Gullit? Exquisite player, articulate communicator, lynam-smooth panellist, perfect gentleman, the darling of the masses. But successful coach? The jury is not only out but is asking for more time and refreshments. Gullit has made all the right moves by bringing Vialli, Di Matteo and Lehoucq to the Bridge, jumping on the European juggernaut but, possibly, armed with more first-hand information than some of his Premiership counterparts, Vialli's partnership with Hughes, the cranky yet still capable Wales striker, is important but not, perhaps, as much as Gullit's ability to combine playing with managing and all his other commitments. Chances are that, after Chelsea lose 3-0 at Sunderland, he will face his first serious cross-examination and utter his first cross words.

PLAYER-MANAGER: Ruud Gullit (appointed May 1996).

TRANSFERS: In: G Vialli (Juventus, free), F Lehoucq (Strasbourg, £2.5m), R Di Matteo (Lazio, £4.9m). Out: N Spackman (Sheff Utd, free), M Toot (Leicester, £650,000), Z Rowe (Preston, free), P Parlong (Birmingham, £1.5m), A Barnes (Cardiff, £165,000).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 11th. FA Cup: semi-finals. Coca-Cola Cup: 2nd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, D Kharin; 2, D Petrescu; 3, T Pheasant; 4, R Gullit; 5, F Lehoucq; 6, S Clarke; 7, J Spencer; 8, A Myers; 9, G Vialli; 10, M Hughes; 11, D Wise; 12, M Duberry; 13, K Hitchcock; 14, C Barry; 15, D Lee; 16, R Di Matteo; 17, S Minto; 18, E Johnson; 19, G Peacock; 20, F Sinclair; 21, J Morris.

Championship odds: 20-1.



Walker and Ray Harford, his manager, cannot afford to dwell on good times past. Harford has to rebuild and remanufacture a side that has lost its prime asset and, even with Walker's Jersey bank account still at his disposal and most of the massive windfall from St James' Park still earning interest, he will do well to better the worthy yet flattering seventh-place finish of last season. Le Saux's eventual recovery from an horrific injury would assist Harford's cause, but replacing the irreplaceable Shearer and his 30-plus goals a season is simply a mission impossible, even if Jack and Ray cannot afford to think otherwise. That cash will help anybody if it stays in the bank.

MANAGER: Ray Harford (appointed June 1995).

TRANSFERS: In: G Doris (Parashanah, free), Out: G Tallon (Kilmarnock, free), M Newell (Birmingham City, £775,000), A Shearer (Newcastle United, £15m).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 7th. FA Cup: 3rd round. Coca-Cola Cup: 2nd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, T Flowers; 2, C Coleman; 3, J Kenna; 4, T Sherwood; 5, C Hendry; 6, G Le Saux; 7, S Ripley; 8, K Gallacher; 11, J Wilcox; 12, N Markler; 13, S Given; 14, G Penton; 15, M Holmes; 16, C Sutton; 17, W McKinlay; 18, N Gundunson; 19, A Reed; 20, H Berg; 21, G Doris; 22, L Bohinen; 23, G Filicovic; 24, P Warhurst; 25, J Pearce; 32, D Duff; 33, D Johnson; 34, G Croft.

Championship odds: 25-1.



Coventry escaped the jaws of the Nationwide League on the final day of 1995-96, a fraught 0-0 draw against Leeds United keeping them in the land of milk and honey. Ron Atkinson and Gordon Strachan, his increasingly influential sidekick, had barely finished bathing in champagne before they were planning a less nerve-jangling campaign for 1996-97. Securing McAllister was a coup, with Strachan's former team-mate at Elland Road guaranteed to bring some order to the usual headless chicken routine at Highfield Road. He may be approaching the veteran stage but will quickly become a guiding light to those around him, including O'Neill and Genaux, Atkinson's other captives, helping to ensure that City do not repeat their dice with danger.

MANAGER: Ron Atkinson (appointed Feb 1995).

TRANSFERS: In: G McAllister (Leeds, £3m), R Genaux (Standard Liege), Out: S Morgan (Wigan, free), D Rennie (Northampton, free).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 16th. FA Cup: 4th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, S Ogilvie; 2, R Shaw; 3, D Burrows; 4, P Williams; 5, J Doherty; 6, K Richardson; 7, E Jones; 8, N Walsby; 9, D Dublin; 10, G McAllister; 11, J Salazar; 12, P Telfer; 13, J Folan; 14, P Ndlovu; 15, M Isah; 16, B Barrow; 17, W Boland; 18, M Hall; 19, I Christie; 20, M O'Neill; 21, A Ducros; 22, G O'Toole; 23, S Yee; 24, R Genaux; 26, G Strachan; 31, A Willis; 32, B Brenderville; 33, B Hesley; 34, C Hawkins; 35, C Eustace; 36, C Nolan; 37, S Shilton; 38, T Blake; 39, P Mizen; 40, J Williams.

Championship odds: 250-1.



Biggest news from the City Ground during the off-season was the decision of Lee, the beleaguered Forest striker, to dispose of the pineapple-shaped arrangement that had sprouted on top of his head. Apparently, he has donated it to Short Cuts, his local barbers, for the benefit of follicular science. Generous chap, Frank Clark might be scratching his scalp, too, when the Premiership gets under way, with Forest looking suspiciously lightweight in a heavyweight championship race. Striker Saunders is back from a one-year jaunt in Turkey, delighted not to have to witness any more offerings of sacrificial sheep, while Jerkan, a Croatian of Euro 96 descent, will add a further touch of refinement at the back. With another Italian the big noise at Middlesbrough, will more be heard of Silenzi? Apart from a possible cup run, though, and the occasional sublime display, Forest and Lee might have to endure a fruitless season.

MANAGER: Frank Clark (appointed May 1993).

TRANSFERS: In: A Allen (Oxford United, £350,000), D Saunders (Galatasaray, £1.5m), N Jerkan (Real Oviedo, £1m), Out: K Black (Grimsby Town, £25,000).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 9th. FA Cup: 6th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 2nd round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, M Crossley; 2, D Lytle; 3, S Pearce; 4, C Cooper; 5, S Schette; 6, C Bart-Williams; 7, D Phillips; 8, S Gennelly; 9, D Saunders; 10, K Campbell; 11, S Stone; 12, J Lee; 13, A Pettis; 14, I Wozni; 15, A Silenzi; 16, N Jerkan; 17, C Allen; 18, A Haslam; 19, S Howe; 20, P McGregor; 21, V Warner; 22, B Roy; 23, T Wright; 24, R Irving; 25, S Blatherwick; 26, C Armstrong; 30, R Clark.

Championship odds: 65-1.



After Dave Merrington's bizarre dismissal had he not kept Saints alive? — and the similarly surprising arrival of Graeme Souness, from Galatasaray, few pundits have a clue what to expect from Southampton this season. It could be doom and gloom again at The Dell, with relegation looming large on the Hampshire horizon by Christmas, or perhaps Souness can refresh the parts that even eight pints of Heineken would struggle to reach. Word is that Souness has calmed down and mellowed, which is the last thing one would expect after a year by the steamy Bosphorus, but his new-found patience will be severely examined on the South Coast. Bbox or Anfield it definitely is not, though the possibility of a re-emergent Le Tissier might help to ease the frustration ahead — and would not go down badly with Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, either.

MANAGER: Graeme Souness (appointed July 1996).

TRANSFERS: In: G Monk (Torquay, free), G Potter (Stoke, £1.5m), R Dryden (Bristol City, £150,000), Out: R Hall (West Ham, £1.4m), T Widdington (Grimsby, £300,000), N Maddison (Crystal Palace, £450,000), B Gribbelaar (Plymouth, undisclosed), Derek Allan (Brighton, free).

1995-96 RECORD: League: 17th. FA Cup: 6th round. Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round.

1996-97 SQUAD: 1, D Bessant; 2, J Dodd; 3, F Benali; 4, J Magilton; 5, S Venison; 6, K Monkou; 7, M Le Tissier; 8, G Watson; 9, N Shipperley; 10, N Maddison; 11, N Henney; 12, G Foster; 13, N Moss; 14, S Charlton; 15, A Neilson; 16, D Hughes; 17, P Tisdale; 18, M Oakley; 19, R Dryden.

Championship odds: 250-1.



Bryan Robson always had something about him as a player, an indefinable quality that made him and his team-mates believe anything was possible. It might go part of the way to explaining why Juninho, Branco and Emerson, his high-octane Brazilian blend, and Ravanelli, latterly of Juventus, have decided that Middlesbrough is where it's at in the footballing universe. Or could it be related to oodles of cash? Anyway, the Fab Four are down by the Riverside and make an intriguing bunch. Ravanelli could do well despite cropping his grey locks, but Juninho, the boy wonder, and Branco still have much to prove.

PLAYER-MANAGER: Bryan Robson (appointed May 1994).

TRANSFERS: In: F Ravanelli (Juventus, £7m), M Beck (Colonne, free), Out: P Wilkinson (Barnsley, free), J Moreno (DC United, £100,000).

FOOTBALL: HODDLE'S SUCCESSOR ADDS CONTINENTAL FLAVOUR TO STAMFORD BRIDGE

Gullit puts Chelsea's blend to the test

ROB HUGHES



Football correspondent

RUUD GULLIT is fundamental to English football. Last season he was the catalyst, the fulcrum to Glenn Hoddle's Chelsea; this season he is the club's player-manager, while Hoddle has moved upwards to England.

"What if" has become the catchphrase of the Chelsea dressing-room: the players are encouraged to think with liberation in a game of continental flair, but are urged to consider "what if" they allow adventure to run into misadventure. In other words, there is caution in the star quality that Gullit brings to his football and to the King's Road.

Yet "what if" is fundamental to everything in English football this season. A year ago it was impossible to separate the influence of Gullit, the player hired and attracted to London by Hoddle, from the team designs of Hoddle himself. But the goalposts have moved. Hoddle has the England job. Gullit has Chelsea — and Gullit has purchased from abroad Frank Leboeuf, Roberto di Matteo and, of course, Gianluca Vialli.

Their pre-season suggested that Chelsea are sailing into the English season as a pre-eminent form of continental flair blended with English pragmatism. Gullit dismisses it. "It was pre-season," he said. "Beating Ajax is fine, but from Sunday at Southampton onwards we have to prove what we are in real competitive football."

So, while the question lingers as to whether Gullit was the maker of Hoddle's conception of the English playing a la continental or whether Hoddle created a team in which Gullit could look so inspirational, the task at Chelsea is to expand on the vision that the two men shared.

Gullit has much experience to fall back on. Rinus Michels, Johan Cruyff, Wim van Hanegem, Arrigo Sacchi, Fabio Capello, Sven-Goran Eriksson and Hoddle — all of them have coached him.

"I know," Gullit said with a disarming flick of his head. "I had everything to learn from, but if I don't have the players, I cannot play to a system exactly like any one of them. I will tell you something about systems: at Milan, we had Marco van Basten in a 4-3-3 formation; we lost van Basten, we converted to 4-4-2 and it clicked. Milan became the best team in the world, everyone believed



Gullit is bringing his massive experience as a player to the demanding management role at Chelsea

in 4-4-2 and we played it and played it so often that we could do it in our dreams."

At Chelsea, Gullit will build around the fulcrum not necessarily of Vialli — though, heaven knows, even at 32, his hunger and physical leadership in the Juventus team that won the European Cup in May was breathtaking — but around Di Matteo. Even Italian observers the Umbro Cup were surprised by the passing quality that Di Matteo displayed against teams such as Manchester United and Ajax.

"It is no surprise," according to Gullit. "I give him freedom and the team against him gave him freedom — and Roberto can pass. But

he has his assignment, we all have assignments. You all must do the job assigned and then you can express yourself."

Graham Rix, Gullit's assistant manager, returned to the "What If" conundrum. "There were seventeen games last season when we lost points after being in front. Ruud has concentrated on fitness, because a team that tires physically loses concentration," he observed. "If we have got it right, then we should not have matches in which, for example, both full backs attack at the same time. We are looking for the team to be more compact this season."

More compact, but not necessarily losing the fluidity that

became a revelation when Chelsea played even such passing teams as Newcastle United, Liverpool and Manchester United last season. They are talking about liberty with responsibility and, if it sounds almost a foreign language down at Stamford Bridge, remember that there are now eleven nationalities employed in the Chelsea revolution and that, at one stage in their last pre-season friendly against PSV Eindhoven, only two of the players were English-born and bred.

Vialli, who has yet to appear fully fit in a Chelsea shirt, appears a superstar ready to be "one of the lads". His bedding-down process in

London has so far entailed moving from three luxury hotels while he and his family find the ideal lifestyle. His view of the pasta diet, which English clubs up and down the country are converting to, is that it is fine, but pasta served out of a microwave is not by any means the real thing. We shall see, starting at The Dell on Sunday, whether Vialli and company can serve that up in football terms in the blue of Chelsea.

Given that, in the 1980s, Gullit dedicated his European Footballer of the Year Award to Nelson Mandela, one heard him asked during the week how it felt to be the highest-profile black manager in the English game. Without a flicker of emotion, he responded: "Although you are black or white, what is important is the talent. My father, who studied economics at night school, told me that I would have to work harder than others for what I would achieve with my talent. For me, that was the stimulation. I took it positive. If you

'You all must do the job assigned and then you can express yourself'

feel attacked by the way you are, then you have a problem: I felt proud of what I was, of the colour, everything."

The way he was! One once recalled Gullit standing in the San Siro, looking up into 80,000 supporters and thinking: "Love me, I am a performer. I will try to entertain you." It was his way of banishing the fear that cripples the game. But does he now, as a manager of men, spending millions of Chelsea's money, have any fear of the consequences or still retain that appeal of stardom? "Fear? Why should I, I am doing my best. Chelsea have bought the three players I requested. If I can enjoy myself, if I can pass on this feeling to the team, then we can make it fun together. But of course, we all have our assignments."

Indeed, they are all ask: "What if?" And what if Chelsea surpass expectations this season and carry into Europe the expansion of European football coming home to England?

Swimmers can lead Britain on gold rush

Alix Ramsay finds a team in high spirits as the tenth Paralympic Games begin

Just 11 days after the last firework faded out at the closing ceremony of the centennial Olympic Games, Atlanta is once more the focus of attention for thousands of athletes from around the world. Last night the tenth Paralympic Games opened in a blaze of American razzmatazz, signalling the start of ten days of competition that will see 4,000 disabled athletes from 127 countries vie for medals in 19 sports.

The Paralympic Games are supposed to be the parallel games to the Olympics, a mirror image of the able-bodied extravaganza. So far they are living up to that billing. Just as the Olympics were an organisational nightmare, so the Paralympics are brewing up a few horror stories of their own. Problems stem from the fact that the Olympics and Paralympics are run by separate organisations with different agendas and timetables.

Matters were not helped by the Olympic crew taking two days longer than expected to clear up from their Games, leaving the Paralympic committee running 48 hours behind schedule as they moved in. Once every last shred of the Olympics had been cleared away — right down to the telephone numbers used in the press centre — the Paralympic organisers had to start from scratch.

The transport system is already creaking, with official buses thin on the ground, there are a few computer terminals in place but no programme up and running to provide information and the accreditation procedure appears to be deeply confused. It takes no time at all to get an official pass but there is no guarantee that it will provide access to the required areas. Even the competition schedule is subject to daily change.

The Great Britain team, however, is still in high spirits. Four years ago, in Barcelona, they finished

third in the medals table behind the United States and Germany. Coming home with 128 medals, 40 of them gold. This time the 244 men and women are confident of matching that achievement at the very least. The swimmers took the lion's share of the honours in Spain and this year they could win even more.

Not that the competition will be easy. Compared with able-bodied sport, the Paralympics is still in its infancy with the athletes making huge improvements season by season. In Barcelona, Chris Holmes dominated in the pool, winning six gold medals and setting three world records. In Atlanta, he knows the opposition is catching up fast. He has dropped the 200 metres backstroke from his schedule but is confident of winning four of his five events.

Britain's first gold could be won on Saturday night, when Simon Jackson, fresh from carrying the British flag at the opening ceremony, competes in the judo. Jackson, from Littleborough, Lancashire, has not been beaten since 1987 and is the world and European champion. This is his third appearance in the Games and it could be his third gold medal. His confidence is not in doubt — in Barcelona it took him six seconds to dispose of his opponent in the final.

On the track, Tanni Grey will be defending her four gold medals in the wheelchair sprints, although she is facing sterner opposition from the American pushers this year. But Noel Thatcher's ambitions to match Emil Zatopek's three able-bodied golds in the 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and marathon have already come unstuck. He has a stress fracture of the left leg and, while the injury is holding up well in training, he will test it fully in the first race, the 10,000 metres, before deciding whether to compete any further.

IN BRIEF

England leave it late against Scotland

ENGLAND won the girls' home international golf championship at Formby yesterday for the eighteenth time in 23 years. They beat Scotland 5-4 after a thrilling finale that saw Shelley McKevitt snatch victory on the last green against Pamela Mackay. Gemma Scase, of Scotland, had her disappointment eased by the fact that her victory over Linzi Morton meant that she ended her junior career unbeaten in an international for Scotland. Wales finished last after losing to Ireland in their play-off match.

Chris Roake, 18, the England junior international, beat Sergio Garcia, of Spain, the European amateur champion, to reach the semi-finals of the British Boys' Open golf championship at Littlestone yesterday. Roake will play his England international colleague, Ken Ferrie, for a place in the final.

Steven Peel, a part-time golfer who cannot even command a place in his Yorkshire county team, shot a 68, four under par, to lead the qualifiers for the matchplay stages of the British mid-amateur championship at Hillsdale.

Double delight

Real tennis: Kate Leeming, the Harbour Club assistant professional, partnered Jo Edwards for victory over Barbara Baker and Julianne Drewitt to win the Australian Open Women's Real Tennis doubles championship yesterday. Leeming won the singles title earlier in the week.

Lendl swings in

Golf: Ivan Lendl, the former world tennis No.1, shot a disappointing 82.11 over par in the first round of the Chemapol Czech Open at Marianas Lazne yesterday, his first round on the PGA European Tour. "It was five times worse than playing in a Wim-

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ZURICH: Grand Prix meeting: Marc 100m: 1. D. Mitchell (US) 10.04; 2. D. Bailey (Can) 10.06; 3. C. Chelimo (Ken) 10.06; 4. F. Frederix (Bel) 10.04; 5. J. Williams (US) 10.28; 6. P. Swenson (US) 10.40; 7. A. Maybank (US) 10.44; 8. D. Harrison (US) 10.46; 9. D. Miles (US) 10.47; 10. B. Reed (US) 10.48; 11. W. Kipketer (Ken) 10.49; 12. J. G. Chelimo (Ken) 10.50; 13. V. Nyong'o (Ken) 10.51; 14. W. Tana (Ken) 10.51; 15. D. Morrison (Ken) 10.52; 16. H. Sedwale (Ken) 10.53; 17. J. Kile (Ken) 10.54; 18. J. Chelimo (Ken) 10.55; 19. J. Kile (Ken) 10.56; 20. J. Chelimo (Ken) 10.57; 21. J. Chelimo (Ken) 10.58; 22. J. Chelimo (Ken) 10.59; 23. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.00; 24. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.01; 25. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.02; 26. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.03; 27. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.04; 28. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.05; 29. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.06; 30. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.07; 31. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.08; 32. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.09; 33. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.10; 34. J. Chelimo (Ken) 11.11; 35. J. 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Betting tent an escape from serial sponsors

Match No 9 seemed a good contest to follow: Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, the world No 1 woman golfer from the land more famed for exporting au pairs than athletes, Alison Nicholas, of England, winner of the original Weetabix Women's British Open in 1987 and strongly fancied to do well again this year, with Pat Bradley, of the United States, whose best is behind her, whose swing has lost its elegance, whose hairstyle says it all.

'Sorenstam plays like an angel: fast, clean and accurate'

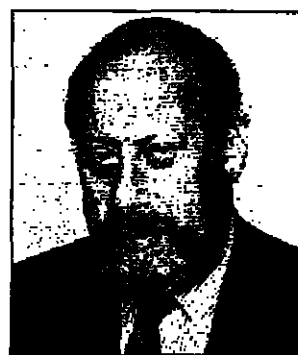
Tee-off 8.20am: the women, their caddies, two marshals wearing arm-bands saying "Marsh", three photographers labelled "Photographer", a scorer with a mobile telephone and about two dozen other ranks who kept to the passive side of the ropes. By 8.22 each of the players had driven and, soon after, when we had climbed the hill, we saw their balls lying in a line. There could have been trouble: a call for an official to decide which ball should be struck first. There was no trouble. Bradley hit hers onto the green, then Nicholas followed to

within 20 feet of the pin and Sorenstam did likewise. Each took two putts.

The scorer waited until the marshals' "quiet please" sticks were lowered and sent back the intelligence: Match 9, Hole 1, Nicholas 4, Sorenstam 4, Bradley 4. A benign citizen from outer space (I mention "benign" because last Sunday I saw *Independence Day*) might have witnessed these ten minutes and wondered what the fuss is about. Things will get livelier.

The Duke's Course at Woburn was in fine fettle, though according to a number of informants, not quite as fine as when the rhododendrons are out. It is an honest course: par-73, hilly with narrow fairways and no water hazards. As I walked from Weetabix hole No 1 to Weetabix tee No 2, passing the Weetabix leaderboard, and watched a Weetabix official negotiate his Weetabix mobile towards the bacon butty hut by the 5th, I felt a shade uneasy. I am myself a Grapefruit man. Sorenstam has the equanimity and

FREUD ON FRIDAY



grace of Ernie Els, the dress sense of Victoria Wood, and plays like an angel: total concentration, fast, clean, accurate shots, little nods of satisfaction when the ball does what she intended. Nicholas is short and punchy and when her chip overran the 3rd green she threw down her wedge in anger. Bradley played unostentatious golf of a consistently satisfactory order: she might be the ideal partner for Nigel Mansell in the mixed doubles.

To appreciate golf, you should either be part of a large crowd or related to one of the practitioners. There is joy in watching play of outstanding brilliance, but the delay between flawless drive, immaculate approach and perfect putt is too long to sustain dedicated attention on the part of spectators. I did the next best thing to watching a relative: I bought one.

William Hill has a large bookmaking marquee and I backed Nicholas each way at 14-1, whereafter the game assumed a new urgency. Around lunchtime I went back to the handsomely organised media centre, was summoned to drink some Verve Cluquet champagne and, over my second glass, was appraised of the skills of one Caroline Pierce; I backed her each way at 66-1. Things were settling down nicely and I had dressed crab and potato salad.

Back on the course I followed Laura Davies, England's most successful woman golfer. She is like Colin Montgomerie without the

scoff, a strong, compact woman with legs like ninespins: nicely turned ankles, topped by a prop forward's calves. Experts opine that this may be no more Davies's course than it would be John Daly's.

I admired Ikuyo Shiotani, of Japan, a small, svelte woman who assumes the position of a flower-arranger as she lines up her putts. I took a little 33-1 each way about her also — and on none of my visits to the betting tent did I see another citizen.

The average age of my fellow watchers was mighty and there were many who carried shooting sticks that doubled as walking-support and seat, needing only hip flask and mobile telephone to achieve total self-sufficiency. I wonder whether one might not make a lot of money designing such an all-purpose accessory. Even if it did not sell, one would almost certainly end up with more money than I will get back from Mr William Hill. May his shadow never diminish.

CLEMENT FREUD

'The grace of Els, the dress sense of Victoria Wood'

GOLF: OLD HEADS ON YOUNG SHOULDERS ARE DOMINATING WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL GAME

Youth policy reaping rich dividend

AS 25-year-old Natascha Fink joined 28-year-old Pernilla Sterner, Karrie Webb, 21, and Rachel Hetherington, 24, on the leaderboard at the Weetabix Women's British Open, an event the Ladies' Golf Union regards as a major championship, a thought occurred: why do professional women golfers win so much younger than the men?

Laura Davies was 24 when she won the US Open, the first of her four victories in major championships before her 33rd birthday in October. Liselotte Neumann won the same event when she was 22. Annika Sorenstam had won two US Opens before her 26th birthday, Juli Inkster two major titles by her 25th birthday. When Helen Alfredsson won the Nabisco Dinah Shore in 1993 she was 27. If one widens it to include the British Open, then Webb's victory in this event last year came when she was only eight months past her twentieth birthday.

These facts are a striking reminder that in this decade only four men under 30 have won major championships: John Daly, 25, the 1991 US PGA Championship, Lee Janzen, 28, the 1993 US Open, José María Olazábal, 28, the 1994 Masters and Ernie Els, 24, the 1994 US Open. Why? One reason is that women generally mature earlier than men, another that there is less strength in depth on the women's tour. There simply are not as many good players as there are on the men's tour.

JOHN HOPKINS



at Woburn

There is no senior tour for women, as there is for men, and thus no incentive for women to keep fit and match sharp so that the moment they turn 30 they can burst on to the senior tour and earn themselves a quick million dollars. Nor do the women players have the same devotion to fitness and general well-being as the men. It would be unheard of for a player to bring her own trainer to an event, as Greg Norman did to the US PGA last week, for example. Likewise, it is doubtful whether a woman player would do what Jack Nicklaus did at the Open Championship. Nicklaus made several hour-long telephone calls to his United States-based physiotherapist and received one 20-page fax when he had problems with his back.

Women peak earlier and also finish earlier, which reduces the level of competition. Since the start of the Eighties, no woman in her forties has won a major championship, whereas since 1980 Jack Nicklaus, 46, has won the 1986 the Masters, Hale Irwin won the third of his US Open titles when he was just past his 45th birthday and Ray Floyd was 43 when he won the 1986 US Open.

At present, three of the top four players in the world are European: Davies, Sorenstam and Neumann. The fourth is Webb, who is Australian. Sorenstam and Neumann, both Swedes, have come through so quickly in part because of an enlightened policy towards them in golf clubs in Sweden.

"Though in some places juniors are regarded as getting in the way, they are not in Sweden," Sorenstam, who was 12 when she started playing golf, said. "We have junior training camps, junior committees, junior tournaments. From the time I started, I was given lessons by the club. Despite our age we had exactly the same right as any other members. As long as we had booked our starting times we could turn up on the first tee when we liked."

"Younger players are getting more experience before they turn professional," Webb, whose earliest attempts at golf were with plastic clubs when she was four years old, said. "I am sure I had a lot more competitive experience representing my country as an amateur than some of my predecessors did. That helped me considerably."

The startling rise of good players from Britain, of whom Davies is the best example, is a result of promising amateurs



Webb tees off at Woburn yesterday as she tries to retain her Women's British Open title

being identified early and then well coached. Davies, the Swedes and Marie Laure De Lorenzi, from France, are showing us that gifted players with good technique are going to emerge quickly when there

are few good players ahead of them. This is certainly true in Europe, where the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour, founded in 1979, nearly foundered when the number of tournaments fell

from 20 in 1990 to 11 three years later. As the event at Woburn progresses, two more names have been added to the leaderboard — Emilee Klein and Tracy Hanson. Klein is 22, Hanson 24.

Faldo aims for Rocky road to rejuvenation Accurate Collinson holds all the aces

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BY JOSHUA BALL

NICK FALDO was hoping that the spectacular backdrop of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado would inspire an equally exhilarating run-in to the end of the season when he made his debut in the Sprint International modified Stabelford tournament in Denver yesterday.

If the Masters champion needed to measure himself against the best golfers in the world after his disappointing showing in the US PGA last week, the Castle Pines Club was the place to be, with the other three major winners of this year also playing in one of the strongest fields assembled this year.

His confrontation with Steve Jones, the US Open champion, Tom Lehman, the winner of the Open and Mark Brooks, the victor at the PGA, was given additional spice by the presence of Greg Norman, Fred Couples and Tom Watson.

Eight points are awarded for an albatross, five for an eagle, two for a birdie and none for par, while one is deducted for a bogey and three points lost for a double-bogey or higher. Although somewhat different from the scoring system originally devised by Dr Frank Stabelford, it promised a feast of exciting scoring.

A HOLE in one is a rare occurrence in any round of golf. On Sunday afternoon David Collinson did it twice, a feat that has only been recorded six times since records began.

Collinson's performance may be unique, for he did it both times at the same hole at Bentham, a nine-hole course near Lancaster. "The first hole in one, when I used my six-iron, was a bit scabby," I hit the ball a bit hard and it really raced into the hole, but the second time around I used my seven-iron and the shot was much sweeter: the ball rolled nicely into the cup," Collinson, who has a handicap of 15, said.

It was only the second time that anyone had claimed a hole in one at Bentham this year, although, Collinson, 38, a solicitor at Kendal Magistrates' Court, enjoys the course — he already had one hole in one from playing there previously. On Sunday he went round the first time on his own; the second time he was playing with Roger Todd, Bentham's former captain. The second shot was "almost perfect," Todd said.

The first player to have two holes in one recorded was J Ireland, in 1907. He performed the feat at the 5th and 18th holes at Worlington Golf Club.

TENNIS

Agassi disqualified after umpire row

ANDRE AGASSI, always the heir apparent to John McEnroe, acted in the worst traditions of his brilliant but bad-tempered countryman when he was disqualified from the RCA championships in Indianapolis yesterday. Having flirted with disaster during the Olympic Games in a notoriously ill-tempered clash with Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, in Atlanta, when he escaped disqualification by the skin of his teeth, Agassi failed to repeat the trick in the early hours of yesterday morning. Warned for ball abuse by the umpire, Dana Lacinto, Agassi, 32

down in the second set of his second-round match with Daniel Nestor, of Canada, after taking the first 6-1, responded with an expletive. Lacinto called for the ATP supervisor, Mark Darby, who instructed him to default the No 3 seed.

The crowd was furious with the decision, throwing a number of missiles onto the court before cheering Agassi off and so, too, was the American, who said afterwards that the decision was unjust because the normal road to default — warning, point penalty and default — was not followed.

Answers from page 37

GENUAL

(a) *Genual* means pertaining to the knee. *Genial* (pronounced *genial*) means warm, cheering, sociable. It originally meant *genial*, to do with generation. A *genial bed* was the nuptial bed. *Genial* (pronounced *genial*), however, means pertaining to the chin. References to your *genial* (pronounced *genial*) or *genual* organs can be effective in an appropriate context.

PLETHORA

(a) Too many of a good or bad thing (cf. *surfeit* too much of a good thing). The number of objects constituting a plethora varies. To a house-proud matron, a single cockroach in her kitchen is a plethora, since cockroaches are, to her, an anathema. For a house-proud matron is, by definition, somebody with a plethora of anathemas.

DRAPETOMANIA

(c) An intense desire to run away from home. Surprisingly, there does not appear to be a word for that much more common condition — an intense desire for somebody else to run away from home.

STRAMINEOUS

(a) Strawlike, flimsy, valueless. From the Latin *stramen* a straw. "Such a pleasure to debate an issue with you, Professor. I always find your arguments so *stramineous*."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHECKS MOVE
1...Bg1+2Qxg1Ng4+3hxg4Qh6+4Bh4Qb4mate. Reversing Black's first two moves, i.e. 1...Ng4+2hxg4Bg1+ works equally well.

RADIO CHOICE

Cliffhanging sea drama

Survivors. Radio 4 (FM). 10am.

Inevitably, a series that chooses to call itself *Survivors* shoots itself in the foot. It's implicit in the title that these tales of human endurance the odds won't end in death. So, what's left in the way of suspense? In the case of *The Divers* story quite a lot. Christopher Fynn used to dive for the sheer adventure of it. In the sea near Whitby, he was gripped by a strong current and sucked away from the coastline. That was his last dive, but there was more to come. Back on dry land, he had to haul himself up a cliff, fearing death from hypothermia. This remains high drama, even when told by a phlegmatic Yorkshireman.

BBC Proms 1996. Radio 3. 7pm.

Not everybody's aural appreciation of Beethoven's opera *Leonore* will necessarily be heightened by the knowledge that this is the first time an opera has been staged in the Royal Albert Hall's central arena. But if you know your Albert Hall well, this information should help you to build up a complete mental picture of tonight's musical spectacular. Any lingering doubts you may have about whether the *Fidelio* is just *Leonore* in a new suit of clothes and bearing a different name, should be cleared up by Peter Branscombe's investigation into the genesis of Beethoven's only opera between acts 2 and 3 (8.25pm). The orchestra is the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, under John Eliot Gardiner. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from Paignton. Green in Paignton 12.30pm Lisa (Anson) 3.00 Dave Pearce 7.00 Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 3.00am Arno Nightingale 5.00 Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Jock and Scott 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 The Comedy Quiz 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Every Living Thing by James Heron 9.00 Listen to the Band 10.00 Ian Anderson's Edinburgh Festival 12.05am Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madill, incl 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl 12.35pm Moneywatch, with Katie Derham 2.05 Racecast on Five 4.00 Nationwide, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, with Valerie Sandstrom 7.20 Friday Sport, with Peter Dury. Football coverage from Leeds. Road of the opening game of the new season between Manchester City and Ipswich Town. Plus athletics from the Grand Prix meeting in Cologne 10.05 Paper Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 1.00-5.00 Up All Night — The Race for the White House

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Riebaum 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Peter Dinkley 7.00 Sport 10.00 Mike Allen 1.00am Mike Dickinson

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.30am Europe Today 6.45 Words and Music 6.50 The Insider's Guide 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Rock Salad 8.15 On the Shelf 8.30 China's Cultural Revolution 9.15 Music Review 9.45 Points by Post 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Focus on Faith 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.30 BBC English 1.45 On the Shelf 12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Science in Action 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Multitrack Alternative 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 5.30 Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.10 World Today 6.25 Spotlight 6.30 News in German 7.30 Focus on Faith 9.05 Proms '96 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 For and Against 11.30 The New Europe 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.10 Spotlight 12.15 The Insider's Guide 12.25 Book Choice 12.30 Multitrack Alternative 1.30 Seven Days 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Meridian 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The Village Chart Show

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Nick Bailey 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Cullum 6.00 Classic Rock 8.00 Sonoma 7.00 Showcase 8.00 Evening Concert Brahms (Academic Festival Overture); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 2 in E minor) 10.00 Michael McGee, including Friday Live 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Radio 4000 7.00 Paul Coyle (FM) (AM) Robin Banks 10.00 Alan Freeman 12.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00am Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, Presented by Penny Gore, includes Massenet (Suite No 4 Scenes pittoresques); Honegger (Pastorale d'été); Joseph (Praeterearum sermum); Handel (Concerto Grosso No 1 in B flat minor); Medtner (Russian Round-Dance, A Tale); Howells (String Quartet, Op 25, Fantasy) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini, Bach (Violin Concerto in G minor, BWV 1058); Britten (Les Illuminations); Villa-Lobos (Bachiana Brasileira No 2) 10.00 Musical Examinations. Presented by Nicola Heywood Thomas, includes Albeniz (Navarra); Mozart (Andante in C, K315) 10.10 Proms Archive: The Week: Judith Hewitt, soprano, Strauss (Capriccio, excerpts) 10.30 Parade (Siclienne); Vaughan Williams (Lark Ascending); Elgar (Ave verum corpus); Gounod (Grand chœur dialogue) 11.00 Brahms (Symphony No 4 in E minor); Meyerbeer (Dinorah, excerpt) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven by David McGuinness. Concert: Bartok Plus, Chris de Souza, Kocian Quartet, Haydn (String Quartet in D, Op 20 No 4); Delmery (String Quartet in D flat, Op 15) (V) 2.00 Music Restored. Recorded at the Russian Cathedral, Cathedral, London in 1993. A service to commemorate the departed, sung in early Russian chant by the Moscow Orthodox Male Choir, under Anatoly Gritchenko (V)

3.00 Mining the Archive: Edinburgh International Festival. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the festival, Sir John Drummond introduces the third of four selections of recordings from the BBC archives, including Smetana (Dallor, excerpts); Janacek (In the Malt; Debussy (Nocturnes) 5.00 The Music Machine, with Kit Heath-Harvey 5.15 In Tune. Presented by Anthony Burton, includes Zelenka (Sonata No 3 in B flat); Mozart (Euphonia, jubilate, K165); Hindemith (Concerto for woodwind, harp and orchestra) 7.00 BBC Proms 1996. See Choice. Hilary Martinello, Neapoleon Kim Begley, tenor, Matthew Best, bass, Christine Hewitz, soprano, Franz Hawelka, bass, the Monteverdi Choir and the Orchestra Revolutionnaire et Romantique, under John Eliot Gardiner. Acts 1 and 2 8.25 Beethoven's First Symphony with Peter Branscombe 8.55 Proms Part 2. Act 3 10.00 Hear and Now, Introduced by David McGuinness. Includes Dick Lee (Soloist); Karsten Fundal (Figure and Ground Study); John McLeod (Piano Sonata No 3); Craig Armstrong (20 Movement for Orchestra) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven by David McGuinness. Includes Dick Lee (Soloist); Karsten Fundal (Figure and Ground Study); John McLeod (Piano Sonata No 3); Craig Armstrong (20 Movement for Orchestra) 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod, includes 1.00 Chamber 2.30 Chamber 3.15 Gothic Martin, Franck 4.35 Bach 5.00 Sequence

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing and Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today's 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Changing Forest (S) 8.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. The writer Susan Hill chooses eight recordings (V) 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dea 10.00 News: Survivors. See Choice (V) 11.30 The Natural History Programme 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Chris Choi 12.25pm One for the Pot. Lionel Kelleway catches and smokes fresh eel, dresses it with wild watercress from the riverbank, and washes it down with river-cubed champagne (4/4) Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (V) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Deep Season: The Classic Serial: The Aran Islands, by J.M. Synge. With William Houston, Tom Murphy and Lesley McGuire (V) 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow sees the Richard Wilson exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery 4.45 Short Story: Casting Arthur Smith reads his own short story 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather (V) 6.00 6.00 O'Clock News 6.30 Parks and Gardens. Simon Parkes rediscovers the lost gardens of Heligan (1/6)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.25 The World at One, with Chris Searle 8.05 In the Dock: The Press A series which Sue Cameron cross-examines some of Britain's key institutions and professions to see how well they serve us (4/6) 8.50 Home Rules. How do big families maintain household control (3/4) (V) 9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: She Bewitched My Horse. Diane Eckstein examines the myth, magic and fairytales in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (V) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harris 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Washington Square Tom Wilkinson reads Henry James story (5/10) 11.00 The Mark Steel Solution. The controversial and thought-provoking comic Mark Steel returns with a series of further radical proposals to change all our lives for the better. This week, he reorganises religion (1/4) 11.25 Fourth Column 11.45 The Big Umbrella. Leading thinkers present radiophonic essays on original ideas. The evolutionist Dr Richard Dawkins celebrates the best. With recordings taken in the field by Dr Gareth Jones (2/5) 12.00 News incl 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: The Secret History. The final episode of Donna Tartt's best-selling thriller read by William Hope 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 170. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 682, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK, MW 1059, 1069. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith.

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

These company golf days are scheduled for the 1996 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

Date	Company name	Venue	Players
19 AUG	PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS PERSONNEL LTD	EREWASH VALLEY	24
19 AUG	TELFORD POLICE ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF DAY	WREXON	100
20 AUG	DPDS TRANSPORT LTD	MOOR HALL	48
20 AUG	KEDDY SERVICES LIMITED	MENTMORE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	48
20 AUG	UNION LIMITED	HOLTYE	38
21 AUG	APOLLO VIDEO FILM HIRE LTD	ST GEORGES HILL	28
21 AUG	CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE SOCIETY	TATMOUTH CASTLE	88
21 AUG	NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY	WIMBORNE	48
21 AUG	NATIONWIDE BUILDING SOCIETY	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY	44
21 AUG	SAFEMARK STORES PLC	KINGSWOOD	68
22 AUG	AVON INSURANCE	STRATFORD UPON AVON	48
22 AUG	BRISTOL MIDLAND AIRWAYS	WANDER	28
22 AUG	HELSBY ELECTRICAL & BUILDING SERVICES	MUDLEY	34
22 AUG	INDUSTRIAL SCAFFOLD GROUP LTD	ST PIERRE	28
22 AUG	LAWSON MARDON STAR LTD	WORFIELD	50
23 AUG	ALLTOP FINANCIAL SERVICES	WAKEFIELD	48
23 AUG	BENSON MCGARVEY HENDERSON	NOTTS	48
23 AUG	BLUE CHOCOLATE INDUSTRIES PLC	THE BEECHMERE	28
23 AUG	J ROTHCHILD ASSURANCE PLC	COTGRAVE PLACE	28
23 AUG	MOORE ELECTRIC LTD	DURHAM CITY	38
23 AUG	POWER TESTING LIMITED	THE WARREN	32
23 AUG	SEEDWICK HENDRICKS	EDENBURGH	38
24 AUG	BOAT INTERNATIONAL LTD	BOAT OF GARTEN	60
24 AUG	DPDS TRANSPORT LTD	MUNFORD	28
24 AUG	SEDDON PACKAGING & PRINTING LTD	THORPE WOOD	18

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When public interest shades into prurience

A simple question, this. Say you were making a documentary about a condition called "precocious puberty", which made small children develop sexually at premenstrual speed. And say one of these children was a girl seven years old, who looked 11 and had been menstruating since the age of four. Bearing in mind national fears of paedophilia, would you show this child on telly in a swimsuit? BBC's *Dark Secret* last night (*Too Much Too Young*) made its own decision on this matter with remarkable ease. "Will this child be an object of unwanted sexual attention?" her Great Ormond Street consultant worried aloud. And the answer was yes, you idiot, she will now.

Evidently 550 new cases of precocious puberty arise each year, so there is something to be said for alerting parents to the possibilities of hormone treatment — to slow the children's development. But this

public interest statistic was tossed into the film at the very end last night, just when the viewer was finally convinced that *Dark Secret* had no right to expose something so personal and damaging to the kiddies involved. Five-year-old Alexander — tall, precocious, gap-toothed, big blue specs — was shown sitting on his mother's knee while she talked about his eruptions. Meanwhile, over shots of Jackie playing in sand, her mother said she had been born with public hair. Really. It was as though *Lolita* had never been written.

Alexander seemed a robust, intelligent child. He could say "consensual adrenal hypoplasia" the way other five-year-olds can say "Thomas the Tank Engine". Presumably, echoing arguments heard from his parents, he told us that his problem was very significant, actually, and that if he ended up rather a short person as a result of his treatment,

this would just add to the variety of life. If everybody were tall, he argued, only the tall things would get done. Telling Alexander the full facts of his condition had obviously been the right decision: airing this subject will doubtless encourage other parents not to keep their secret dark. But discussing children's sexuality on telly in relation to identified individuals was tacky, intrusive and bad. Even that nice, reasonable Kirsty Wark on the voiceover couldn't make amends.

Over on Channel 4, *Secret History* investigated Harold Wilson's surprise resignation in 1976, and I sighed with relief. Here was something I actually wanted to know about. Unlike most people, I remember exactly where I was when I heard the astounding news: in a Roman seminar at University College London. Somebody ran in and said "Harold Wilson has re-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

signed," and we all said "Oh" and "Lynne" and looked confused. And then an intellectual called Stephanie piped up: "Yes, I knew that; I didn't think it was important." I was always suspicious of intellectuals after that.

Wilson's dark secret, it seems, was that he didn't actually have one. He was not an agent of the KGB, and his portrait of Palmerston was not bugged by MI5. What

emerged last night, however, was his obsession with spooks, and his habit of ushering his Cabinet Secretary towards bathrooms with running taps when he wanted to communicate something unimportant. According to this version, he was convinced the spooks were after him; and not without foundation. MI5 employed disaffected right-wingers such as Peter Wright. Wilson's Cabinet colleagues were burgled regularly. And Lord Kagan (famous raincoat man) played chess in London with an agent from Lithuania.

This was not the clearest of films. Just as Wilson supposedly waxed over-excited about clocks and dappers, so did this *Secret History* — sometimes so keen to trace all the rumours and counter-rumours through remarkable interviews with Chapman Pincher, Lord Hunt and CIA men that the final explanation got a bit lost. The big question — "Was Wilson para-

noid, or really the victim of plots?" — was finally answered: "both." I think. One of the alleged plots entertainingly involved the youthful William Waldegrave — supposedly requesting Fleet Street to be named after him. Sounds like the sort of thing that used to happen every day.

Does Patrick Robinson really have a formal connection with West Hatch RSPCA Wildlife Hospital? I have a feeling he's, you know, talking it up. Robinson, of course, plays Ash in *Casualty*, and any fool knows this is a full-time job with draining emotional demands. Yet in *Back to the Wild* (BBC1) last week he said airily: "Whenever I visit West Hatch, it's full of ducks," and I think we were supposed to believe him. This week he returned to inspect the fox cub who last week swallowed the tea from her feeding bottle (she was hungry), and

had to be cut open. "She's grown so much I hardly recognised her," said Ash, fondly. Again I found myself wondering whether the fox cub would really look wearily at him and think: "Oh look, it's him again. Doesn't that man have a home to go to?"

However, *Back to the Wild* is great stuff. The whole animals-in-splints genre has really hit its stride — brave, limping and cuddly. Last night we had more badgers, some tawny owls, and the *piece de resistance* — hundreds of seabirds rescued from the oil-spill of the *Sea Empress*. Three thousand bottles of washing-up liquid were used; nice people donated blankets and towels; Portakabins arrived urgently by lorry. If you have never tried to hand-wash a shag, I can tell you it doesn't look easy. Only people who can handle a snake and a crocodile at the same time as playing the bagpipes will be any good at all.

CHOICE

Seven Ages of Man: Doris Lessing

BBC2 7.00pm

Serenity seems to emanate from the distinguished Rhodesian writer. But Lessing, now 71, is having no such serenity. "I may be serene now," she warns Anthony Clare (around whom she runs a school, scarcely discernible rings), "but I'm quite capable of being in a state of wild rage. You know, when people talk to you as a 'sweet old lady' it's a comedy because you're still the same person." She does admit that women enjoy a new coolness and detachment once they pass the menopause and are free of their biological clock — a perfect test, that? Lessing has just published her 21st novel and has no urge to retire. Indeed she fell in love at 68 (when I experienced real grief) and regrets never having taken up hang-gliding.

Filthy Rich: Daddy's Girls

Channel 4 8.00pm

The washless Lessing would be flabbergasted by the three blondes who cavort through Knightsbridge for the middle programme in this trilogy. As always, archive film and interviews illustrate the walk along an 18-mile front. "The thought among the men was that it would be the turning point of the war," says Holmes. By the end of November in that year 600,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers had died.

War Walks: The Somme

BBC2 8.00pm (not Scotland)

"From a bright July in 1916 through to a bitter November the Battle of the Somme became the bloodiest in the British Army's history. On average three lives were lost for every 12 inches of ground gained," says military historian Richard Holmes. Of shells fired by the British — nearly two million — a third failed to explode and lethally lie there still. Professor Holmes explores vast craters, and trenches twisted to avoid the straight line of bullets and shells. "It was an underground war too," he explains. "Tunnels were dug to lay mines — so well built many are still here." As always, archive film and interviews illustrate the walk along an 18-mile front. "The thought among the men was that it would be the turning point of the war," says Holmes. By the end of November in that year 600,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers had died.

Pulp Video

BBC2 9.00pm

Last year's pilot looked promising enough so now Brian looks to the series. When you can literally dozens of rapid fire sketches into half an hour you're going to get some duds. But worry not — this team of relative newcomers know what it's about and the bulk of the dull Scottish daffiness is brave stuff. I particularly liked the earnest DI who punishes "listeners' letters which get more grumpy as the night wears on. Then there is the absolutely gruesome cardboard coffin joke, a glorious take off of *Braveheart*, (amazing what a low budget can produce), rick and ups of BT, regional wars, Scottish film and interviews illustrate the walk along an 18-mile front. "The thought among the men was that it would be the turning point of the war," says Holmes. By the end of November in that year 600,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers had died.

Quick-fire comedy (9.30pm)

9.30 Pulp Video. Comedy sketch show (s) (31429)

10.00 A Very Important Dennis. Dennis Parnis recalls some of his most enjoyable encounters with the stars, including Michael Douglas (17351)

10.30 Newsnight presented by Kirsty Wark (181517)

11.15 Edinburgh Comedy. The best of the international stand-up circuit (s) (127142)

12.00 FILM: Schtonk! (1992). German comedy about the forging of the "Hitler diaries". Directed by Helmut Dietl (179017) Ends at 1.50am

6.00am GMTV (4043516)

9.25 Highway across the Galaxy and Turn Left (1757887)

9.50 Hope and Gloria (5820568)

10.20 ITN News (5143262)

10.25 Regional News (5145697)

10.30 Lady Boss (4053698)

12.20pm Regional News (5165600)

12.30 ITN News and weather (6694719)

12.55 Sixth Sense (6599210) 1.25 Liz Earle's Lifestyle (6582101) 2.00 Home and Away (87330974)

2.25 Murder, She Wrote (8961582)

3.20 ITN News (1786264) 3.25 Regional News (1785535)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (1910531) 3.40 Tommy and Anna (8890987) 3.55 Zzzzap! (7801245) 4.15 Cartoon Time (5519353)

4.25 Captain Simon and the Space Monkeys (3080528) 4.45 Art Attack (1153871)

5.10 A Country Practice (5630535)

5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (987871)

6.00 Home and Away. Selma accepts that Jesse didn't steal the bracelet (s) (530993)

6.25 Regional News and weather (624806)

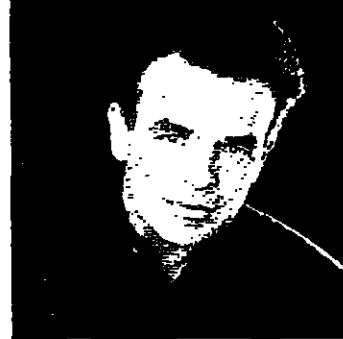
6.50 Let's Go (931413)

7.00 Lucky Numbers hosted by Shane Richie (1429)

7.30 Coronation Street. Josie makes Sally and Kevin an offer they can't refuse (239)

8.00 The Bill: Follow the Van. A spate of violent forecourt robberies is baffling Sun Hill. With Bill Murray, Kevin Dignam and Patrick Field (1167)

8.30 Is It Legal? Dick puts the company's reputation on the line (6784)



Ray Wise as Edward Burton (9.00pm)

9.00 Savannah: From Here to Paternity. Peyton is sure that toy play is involved when Edward is proved innocent by the results of the DNA test. Meanwhile, Vincent catches Tom stealing money from the casino's takings, but decides not to tell Reese. With Robyn Lively, Jamie Lerner and Shannon Sturges (1993)

10.00 News at Ten and weather (11177)

10.30 Regional News and weather (727581)

10.40 FILM: Heartbreak Hotel (1989). Comedy in which two children decide to kidnap Elvis Presley and bring him to the bedside of their ailing mother. Directed by Chris Columbus (8240245)

12.40am Stand Up (8954104)

1.10 The Good Sex Guide... Late (7382036)

2.15 FILM: Lucas (1986). Romantic drama starring George Clooney and Charlie Sheen. Directed by David Letterman (419272)

4.05 Not Fade Away (1120974)

5.00 Best of British Motor Sport (s) (14456)

5.30 ITN Morning News (32765)

As HTV West except:

5.10pm Let's Go (3532806)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (609958)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

10.30am Murder, She Wrote (5104264)

11.25 Side Effects (9369719)

12.55pm Coronation Street (6599210)

1.25-1.55 Good Advice (83117326)

1.55 Home and Away (58912429)

2.25 High Road (8733061)

2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (1749351)

5.10 Home and Away (5630535)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (43210)

10.45 Film: Class (23253158)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

10.30am Murder, She Wrote (5104264)

11.25 Side Effects (9369719)

12.55pm Home and Away (5599210)

1.25 Just a Minute (83117326)

1.55 A Country Practice (89847968)

2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1607149)

5.10 Shortland Street (5630535)

6.25-7.00 Central News (609958)

10.40 Film: Bullitt (8240245)

12.40am Comedy Central (4297456)

1.40 The Good Sex Guide (8323562)

2.40 cyber.cafe (1188017)

3.10 Dear Nick (8813727)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

10.30 Worzel Gummidge (23968)

11.00 Dogtanian (5231790)

11.25 Cross Combat (5241177)

11.55 Dungeons and Dragons (2944054)

12.55pm Coronation Street (6599210)

1.25 Home and Away (83117326)

1.55-2.20 Shortland Street (89847968)

2.20 Murder, She Wrote (5110411)

5.10 Home and Away (5630535)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (43210)

10.45 The Magic and Mystery Show (688552)

11.15 Behind the Ball (781993)

11.45 Hunter (947448)

Starts: 6.35 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (2507328) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41993)

9.00 California Dreams (7579622) 9.25 The Secret World of Alex Mack (7476581) 9.55 Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (6788974) 10.20 Earthworm Jim (2458239) 10.45 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (5521061) 11.10 Biker Mice from Mars (8513887) 11.30 Inspectors (794555) 11.50 Dennis (8662871) 12.05pm Mork and Mindy (6740784) 12.30 Travels à la Carte (33061) 1.00 Slot Methairn (48852) 1.30 Film: Turned Out Nice Again (11608) 3.00 Keepers of the Kingdoms (3245) 4.00 Battlefield (968) 4.30 Strictly Dancing (852) 5.00 5 Pump: Antfield (2535) 5.30 Countdown (332) 6.00 Newyddion (598535) 6.15 Hene (414332) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (818603) 7.25 Bancbar (733626) 8.00 Chwb Gardolf (8719) 8.30 Newyddion (4328) 9.00 Home to Royston (1993) 9.30 Dressing for Breakfast (55937) 10.00 Brookside (19719) 10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (89723) 11.05 Takeover TV (289351) 11.35 The White Room (317968) 12.40am Film: Don't Knock the Rock (205559) 2.15 Film: The Hero of Babylon (223652) Ends at 3.55



The morning after (10.00pm)

10.00 Frasier. It is the morning after for Kale and Frasier and they are worried about the consequences of their fling (Teletext) (s) (19719)

10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (Teletext) (s) (897235)

11.05 Takeover TV. (s) (289351)

11.35 The White Room. The guests include Manic Street Preachers and the Charlatans (s) (317968)

12.40am FILM: Don't Knock the Rock (1956, b/w). Rock 'n' roll musical about a singer who stages a concert in his home town. With Alan Dale, Bill Haley and the Comets and Little Richard. Directed by Fred F. Sears (205559)

2.15 FILM: The Hero of Babylon (1963). Toga and torse epic. In Italian with English subtitles (223652). Ends at 3.55

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

17.00am London (19871) 9.00 Press Your Luck (4832697) 9.20 Love Connection (1725808) 9.40 Quiz Whizz (252088) 10.00 Jeopardy! (220038) 11.10 Sally Jessy Raphael (567719) 12.00 Geraldine (78974) 1.00pm Quiz 3 (71156) 1.30 Desperate Housewives (52521) 3.00 Court TV (4832697) 3.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am Sunrise (2618698) 9.30 Court TV (4832697) 10.30 ABC Nightline (45158) 1.00pm CBS News This Morning (83952) 2.30 CBS News This Morning (83952) 3.00 Court TV (4832697) 3.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Across the Great Divide (1977) 6.45 8.00 Clarence, the Cross-eyed Lion (1989) 9.00 The Untouchables (19874) 9.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 10.30 ABC Nightline (45158) 1.00pm CBS News This Morning (83952) 2.30 CBS News This Morning (83952) 3.00 Court TV (4832697) 3.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

12.00 Slippy and the Intruders (1989) 12.30 2.00am Anchors Aweigh (1945) 1.00am What's Up, Tiger Lily? (1966) 1.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 2.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 3.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Sun Valley Serenade (1941) 6.45 7.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 8.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 9.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 10.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 11.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 12.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 1.00pm Quiz Whizz (252088) 1.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 2.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 3.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Sun Valley Serenade (1941) 6.45 7.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 8.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 9.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 10.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 11.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 12.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 1.00pm Quiz Whizz (252088) 1.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 2.30 Quiz Whizz (252088) 3.00 Quiz Whizz (252088) 4.15 The Untouchables (19874) 4.45 Quiz Whizz (252088) 5.00 Southbound (2177) 7.20 M*A*S*H (8603) 8.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (8697) 8.30 Jimmy's (1000) 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) 10.00 Quantum Leap (24509) 11.00 Highlander (81535) 12.00 Late Show with David Letterman (553088) 12.45am WKRP in Cincinnati (229303) 1.00 Adventures of Mark Twain (48294) 2.00 Hit Man (570524)

EUROSPORT

7.00am Saug (22806) 8.00 Trainor (36239) 9.00 Motors (17126) 10.30 Motors (17126) 11.00 Motors (17126) 12.00 Motors (17126) 1.00pm Motors (17126) 1.30 Motors (17126) 2.30 Motors (17126) 3.00 Motors (17126) 4.15 Motors (17126) 4.45 Motors (17126) 5.00 Motors (17126) 6.00 Motors (17126) 7.00 Motors (17126) 8.00 Motors (17126) 9.00 Motors (17126) 10.00 Motors (17126) 11.00 Motors (17126) 12.00 Motors (17126) 1.00pm Motors (17126) 1.30 Motors (17126) 2.30 Motors (17126) 3.00 Motors (17126) 4.15 Motors (17126) 4.45 Motors (17126) 5.00 Motors (17126) 6.00 Motors (17126) 7.00 Motors (17126) 8.00 Motors (17126) 9.00 Motors (17126) 10



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Cardiff romp away with Inner Cities Cup

SPORT

FRIDAY AUGUST 16 1996

PARALYMPICS 37

Britain take high hopes to Atlanta



Czech cleared to boost Liverpool

By Peter Ball and Russell Kempson

PATRIK BERGER'S work permit came through yesterday, enabling the Czech Republic international to complete his £3 million transfer from Borussia Dortmund in time to play from the start of Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup campaign. However, although the European deadline passed yesterday, Berger may not be the last of the foreign influx into the FA Carling Premiership.

Manchester United's bid for Spain's outstanding central defender, Miguel Angel Nadal, has been put on ice after discussions with Barcelona broke down, but suggestions yesterday that Barcelona would release Nadal mean that it could be revived at United's board meeting today.

"We did inquire about him, but the discussions haven't come to anything," Maurice Watkins,

United's solicitor and a club director, said yesterday. "We haven't been able to come to a satisfactory agreement, but we will be keeping it under review."

There was better news for Ferguson yesterday regarding Andy Cole. The striker was expected to be out for at least six weeks, when he suffered pneumonia at the beginning of August, but he is back in training ahead of schedule.

Nadal, 30, would not be available for the Champions' League stage of the European Cup, but with worries over Gary Pallister's suspect back, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, may decide to move for the tall defender, who had an outstanding game against Alan Shearer in June in the European championship quarter-final.

Demand on players is going to become even greater next season. UEFA, the European governing body, decided yesterday to increase

the Champions' League stage from 16 to 24 clubs in the 1997-98 season, allowing the champions of all 48 member leagues into the competition.

While the arrival of Berger's work permit was good news for Liverpool, who feared that it might not come in time to register him for the Cup Winners' Cup, it was even better news for Berger himself. "It's been my ambition to play for Liverpool since I can remember," Berger said through an interpreter. Berger, who has not been able to train with Liverpool pending the arrival of the permit, is not expected to start against Middlesbrough tomorrow.

Arsene Wenger, Arsenal's manager-in-waiting, yesterday received a glowing reference from George Weah, the world footballer of the year. If the Highbury supporters were still questioning the wisdom of the club's beleaguered directors in appointing Wenger to replace Bruce

Rioch, Weah sought to allay their fears.

Weah, the Liberia and AC Milan striker, spent his formative years at AS Monaco, where Wenger was chief coach. "For me, he is the best," Weah said. "He made me into a good player, a better player, and he worked me hard. He made Monaco

though, Arsenal may have to wait. Nagoya could insist that Wenger stays until the end of the Japanese season in November, or until his contract expires the following month.

"People here have been very good to me and I have to be fair to them," Wenger said. "I can't say too much, because nothing has been officially confirmed yet, but I know the English game very well. What the demands are, how great the passion is and how desperate everyone is for success."

"Arsenal are right up there as one of the biggest clubs so it would be a huge challenge for me, probably the biggest of my career. English football has made great progress in the last two years and the mix of continental players always improves things."

Wenger moved to Monaco in 1987, after coaching youth teams at Strasbourg and Nancy, and signed

Premiership guide 36
Gullit at the helm 37

into a good team, too. He would work with each player each day, psychologically and physically, and there was a great understanding between us."

Wenger is expected to be confirmed as Rioch's successor on Tuesday, once he has gained agreement from his present club, Nagoya Grampus Eight. Even then,

Sprinters to meet in golden contest

By David Powell
ATHLETICS
CORRESPONDENT

DONOVAN BAILEY, who left the Olympic Games in Atlanta as the 100 metres champion but not recognised as the world's fastest man, has agreed to put the issue to the test. Ray Flynn, his manager, disclosed yesterday that he was in discussion with representatives of Michael Johnson for an unprecedented race between the two world record-holders.

Bailey, from Canada, won the Olympic 100 metres in a world-record 9.84sec. Five days later, Johnson, from the United States, reduced the 200 metres world record to 19.32sec, a 10.12sec first 100 metres from blocks and around a bend followed by his second 100 metres in 9.20sec — an average of 9.66sec for each 100 metres.

Atto Boldon, the bronze medal winner in both sprints, said that, while the 100 metres champion normally could claim to be the quickest human, Johnson was, in his opinion, faster than Bailey. Now negotiations are progressing for a challenge between the only two athletes to have set world records in the Atlanta Olympics and, should it go ahead, the match would be at least as lucrative as the £200,000 race between Linford Christie and Carl Lewis in Gateshead in 1993.

Flynn said that the event would be linked to a casino and held in North America. Rather than use a regular athletics venue, a temporary two-lane track may be erected in a gambling centre such as Las Vegas.

Bailey has no international record at 200 metres and Johnson, though he has dabbled at 100 metres, has never broken 10sec. Although a compromise distance of 150 metres may prove tempting, it would better to stick to 100 metres, not only because the title of world's fastest man is traditionally judged over that distance but also because, over 150 metres, Johnson would be an unbackable favourite.

Swede makes startling recovery

Alfredsson puts on command performance

By Patricia Davies

IT WAS calm and sunny for the first round of the Woburn Women's British Open at Woburn yesterday, but those in the vicinity of the 3rd green prepared for thunderbolts when Helen Alfredsson, a Swede for whom the word volatile might have been minted, strode off, already four over par.

Alfredsson, winner of this title in 1990, opted for fireworks instead of eight birdies, one eagle and two bogeys later she signed for a remarkable rollercoaster round of 69, four under par, just a shot behind the leaders, a cosmopolitan bunch comprising Alison Nicholas, Jenny Liddick, Tracy Hanson, Emily Klein, Julie Piers and Dale Reid.

Alfredsson's dizzying description of the proceedings was as much of a *tour de force* as the golf itself. She is now based in Los Angeles and would be available for a cameo role, preferably manic, in the Blake Edwards movie "The most erratic round I've ever played? My whole life is erratic," she said.

The dropped shot at the short 2nd was relatively straightforward — a nine-iron into the bunker on the left and a missed par putt of four feet — but the 3rd, a difficult par four of 355 yards that doglegs its way uphill — was a catalogue of mayhem that included nine shots but only seven counting strokes, and Alfredsson revelled in the retelling.

"I hooked my three-wood off

Freud on Friday 38
Winning young 38

the tee and played a provisional ball, but we found the first ball in sticky bushes, so I went in there, butt first, and chipped out. I had a four-iron to the green, but I topped it back in the trees and played another provisional. Then I did my Tarzan act in the jungle for a while, found the first ball and went back to play it from the original spot on the fairway. I figured I should be able to do it right the third

time and I hit it onto the green — I took a five-iron this time — and two-putted from about 24 feet.

"After all the shots I hit, a seven sounded like a bargain because I was beginning to think I might not finish at all. I just thought it can't get much worse now." It did not. Three successive birdies followed the triple-bogey and she moved to one under par with an eagle three at the 466-yard 10th, where she hit a five-iron to 40 feet and canned the putt. She dropped a shot at the 11th, a par three where she missed the green, birdied the next two holes, bogeyed the 14th and birdied three of the last four holes. The exception was the 16th, where she got a four that was well-nigh regulation. "That was a fun par," she said. "I hit a three-iron behind a tree and had to bend a four-iron round the tree, onto the green, and two-putted."

Beth Daniel and Val Skinner, Alfredsson's American playing partners, were obviously so mesmerised that they lost the plot. Daniel, troubled with bursitis in her left shoulder, took 77 and Skinner bogeyed three holes in a row from the 14th in her 74.

Alfredsson in this sort of form is unlikely to be omitted from the Solheim Cup team so, although in some discomfort, she will delay an important operation until after the match. Typically, there is nothing simple about it. It will last six hours and require four months of recuperation and involves a broken bone in her bottom and ligaments and hamstrings that have become detached but must be attached.

Alongside Alfredsson on four under was Karrie Webb, the defending champion. Having relished a run in Laura Davies's Ferrari on Wednesday — the speed reached was classified information — the young Australian was a touch



Nicholas keeps her eye on the ball after driving during her impressive first round at Woburn yesterday

more sedate on the course, in fact an extended family group of parents, sister, aunts and uncles. She hit 16 greens in regulation and holed one eagle putt, of 30 feet, at the 474-yard 13th.

Annika Sorenstam was also where she usually is, in contention, on 69, and the lesser-known Natascha Fink, a chunky Austrian who was

born in New York, was on the same mark. She dropped two shots in the last three holes, but is worth keeping an eye on, for, much in the Alfredsson mode, anything is liable to happen. At the Welsh Open at St Pierre last year, Fink had a run of eight birdies in ten holes and just made the cut. If she learns to keep her excitement in check and turn

the bogeys into pars, she will be a formidable competitor. Lisa Hackney, a Midlander who seems certain to make her Solheim Cup debut this year, is not a demonstrative soul, but her golf continues to impress. She deviated from par only three times: at the 4th, where pitched in from 20 yards for an eagle three; at the 10th, where she holed a 25-foot putt for another eagle three; and at the 18th, where she holed a ten-footer for a double-bogey seven.

It was not the time to live up to her nickname of Hackers, but it demonstrated the new difficulties of the closing hole, which is 32 yards longer than it was last year and needs a carry of 200 yards to make the fairway. It now stretches even Davies, who had a par five in a round of 72 that contained 15 pars. Perhaps her fireworks are to come.

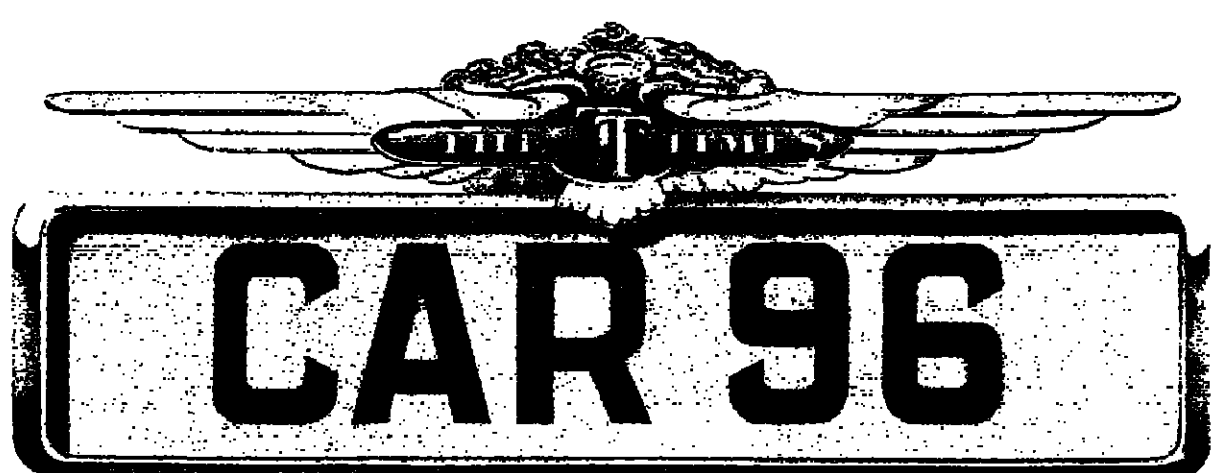
EARLY-FIRST-ROUND SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated:
BB: A. Nicholas, D. Reid, J. Liddick (Piers), T. Hanson (US), E. Klein (US), J. Piers (US), A. Sorenstam (Swe), K. Webb (Aus), R. Jones (US), H. Alfredsson (Swe), R. Hetherington (Aus), M. Piers (Aus), D. Eggleston (US), T. Kerdah (US), J. Sorenstam (Japan), P. Bradley (US), T. Alabail (Sri), P. Skinner (Sri), M. Hetherington (Sri), K. Piers (Sri), J. Liddick (US), L. Marshall (US), S. Farrow (US), T. K. Marshall (US), D. Piers (US), L. Marshall (US), K. Piers (US), J. Liddick (US), J. Sorenstam (Japan), P. Bradley (US), T. Alabail (Sri), P. Skinner (Sri), M. Hetherington (Sri), K. Piers (Sri), J. Liddick (US), L. Marshall (US), S. Farrow (US), T. K. Marshall (US), D. Piers (US), L. Marshall (US), K. Piers (US), J. Liddick (US), J. Sorenstam (Japan), P. Bradley (US), T. Alabail (Sri), P. Skinner (Sri), M. Hetherington (Sri), K. Piers (Sri), J. Liddick (US), L. Marshall (US), S. Farrow (US), T. K. Marshall (US), D. Piers (US), L. Marshall (US), K. Piers (US), J. Liddick (US), J. 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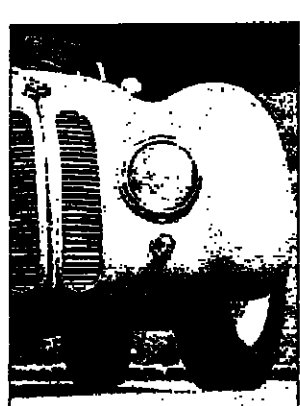
SALES 155A



Has the car of the future already arrived?
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Legends of BMW take the California limelight
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SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

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Scooter sales have accelerated as commuters buy themselves valuable time and freedom, says Jennai Cox



Scooter converts Veronica Cefis (right) and Martine Rhoda with their new machines. Two wheels will save them both time and money, free them from public transport problems and add an element of personal security to commuting

Why commute when you can scoot?

In the desperate attempt to escape the trauma of traffic, overcrowded buses, late-running trains and strike-hit Tubes the British commuter has rediscovered the scooter. Travellers from Cumbria to Cornwall are buying the lightweight, runaround motorbikes so popular on the Continent.

Sales of powered two-wheelers have risen every week this year, led by a new breed of multi-coloured, slick and sexy looking scooters designed to attract the fashion-conscious and those who have never considered bike riding before.

Sales to women have risen 20 per cent, with many choosing step-through models which can be ridden easily in a skirt.

Retailers say interest jumped after Noel Gallagher of Oasis and Jonathan Ross were seen riding them.

But the days of mods and nostalgia for their Lambretta culture are past: the scooter buyer is now more likely to be a city worker than a teenager. According to Ian Waldo, a partner at London's Metropolis Motorcycles, "They are professionals and are making scooters more acceptable. It's not a cranky, old-fashioned form of transport anymore. People want to



Scooters are the ideal way to negotiate city rush-hour traffic

buy back the time they spend travelling."

Martine Rhoda, who was inspired to buy a silver Piaggio Sfera 50cc last week by a colleague, worked out that switching from the Tube and car will save her 11 days a year, and "a fortune". She says, "All my friends with scooters say it's a good way of de-stressing your life and saving money. I feel so liberated."

Martine who lives in Futham has to be at her desk in a City investment bank by 7.30 each morning. Using a scooter has cut her journey time from one hour to 25 minutes.

Alison Krug swapped her Travelcard for a yellow Piaggio Typhoon 80cc last January to get to work in North London. "Everyone is so friendly, they stop to chat at traffic lights after you've zoomed past the queueing cars. In the Tube everyone just sits and stares," she says.

Women like the anonymity of a crash helmet and being able to travel when they choose. Sarah Waghorn, promotions art director for Elle magazine, bought her black Piaggio Sfera 80cc a month ago to avoid having to hang around train stations. "I have to work late sometimes and the bike gives me more freedom," she says. "It's changed my life dramatically — everyone who lives in a city should have one."

At around £1,500 to buy, £70 to insure and £3 a week to run, the scooter should be just another household utensil, claims Honda's Graham Sanderson. "It should be as well as, not instead of a car," he says. "Commuters spend hundreds of pounds a year on rail tickets too, and at the end of the year have nothing to show for it."

Safety can still deter many attracted to the mobility of a motorbike. But

riders will want to be taken more seriously, says Dr Jeremy Vanke, head of public policy at the RAC.

Bristol became the first city last year to allow motorbikes to use bus lanes. Some retailers reported a subsequent 25 per cent increase in scooter sales. Despite bus drivers' concerns, there have been no accidents and its success has attracted inquiries from local authorities in Norwich and Norfolk, and Lothian in Scotland.

Like many newcomers to scooters, customers at Streetbike Motorcycles in Dudley, West Midlands, say apart from the economics, riding them is also fun. The director of Streetbike, Gary Marshall, says: "It's being seen as a way of bringing the enjoyment back into driving."

Richard Annis, director of property developers Urban Spaces in south-east London, bought a Piaggio Sfera 80cc three months ago and says the word scooter sums up the experience. "It's all about scooting round the city on a bike that feels like a toy. It's easy, light, clean; you can wear a suit on them and they are fun. I would never think of driving a big bike again."

On two wheels, pages 3, 12

SCOOTER FACTS

SALES of scooters in Britain are up almost 40 per cent on last year. So far 4,000 have been sold compared with 2,900 for the whole of 1995.

DURING their heyday in the late 1950s, up to 100,000 scooters a year were sold. Sales declined with the rise of the small car. Lambretta, the market leader, closed its factory here in 1972. Sales then picked up again during the 1980s.

THE FIRST 50cc scooter on the market was the front-wheel-drive Vello-Solex, manufactured in France in the late 1940s. The first sold in Britain was a Vespa in 1948.

THIS YEAR is the 50th anniversary of the Vespa. Italian for "wasp" it was designed by Enrico Piaggio who wanted to provide low-cost mobility for the masses after the Second World War.

PRICES start at around £1,100 and go up to just under £3,000 for a luxury model.

TOP-SELLING scooters include the Piaggio Typhoon 50cc, and 125cc and the Yamaha SR 125cc.

STIRLING Moss, Bono of U2 and Tom Conran all own scooters.

A SURE sign that times do not change: in 1965 it was reported that nearly three-quarters of Britain's one million scooter and moped owners used them to save time and lares when commuting.

THERE are an estimated 75,000 scooter riders in Britain today. About 1,000 enthusiasts regularly take part in rallies.

SCOOTERING magazine is to produce a special supplement with the October edition including road tests of the newest scooters on the market.

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The Government's fight against Brussels over VAT on bridge-crossing could backfire because of its own policies

Rotten toll of privatisation

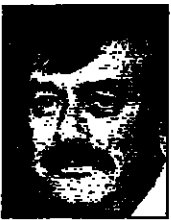
A lorry driver incandescent with rage is a sight worth seeing, provided his ire is not directed at you. The notion that only Italians and other Mediterranean types roll their eyes, wave their arms and generally behave as if close to meltdown is soon dispelled once you corner a couple of British truckers and start feeding in key words.

Caravans is one subject that will get them going. The tachograph is another. BMW drivers will also do it. But the subject that guarantees an instant rise in temperature is bridge tolls. Mention them and you have lit the blue touch-paper.

The latest cause of distress is a proposal from Brussels that we should charge VAT on bridge tolls. Brussels loves VAT, which as you know is a tax collected free of charge by businesses and other ordinary mortals (including me) on behalf of the government. The EU argues that a toll bridge is a business like any other, rather than a public service, as the Government claims.

The matter is now going to the European Court and the Govern-

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

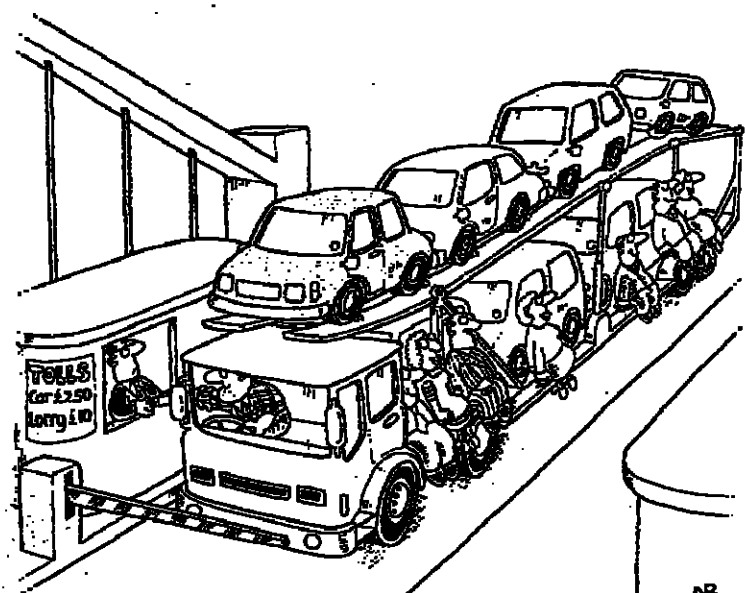


Peter Barnard

ment is right to take it there. One of the crossings involved is that over the River Severn into Wales, which now consists of two bridges.

The present tolls on this crossing are nearly as daft as the ones on the Skye Bridge. Cars pay £3.80, which is more than enough, but not completely outrageous given that it covers both directions. But lorries have to pay £11.50 for the return trip. Adding VAT would make it £13.51.

Lorry drivers I spoke to this week



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regard this as a levy too far and they are right. Already, many HGV drivers coming from the Midlands and the North are under instructions to avoid the bridge by cutting through north Gloucestershire. VAT will only increase that number.

If Brussels is fond of VAT it is also immensely fond of the environment. Directives about trees and sewage pour like a torrent from the EU, yet its approach to bridge tolls contradicts its environment policy. Avoid-

ing the Severn crossings involves huge lorries thundering along totally unsuitable roads, many of which are hardly fit to carry cars. Imposing VAT will increase traffic, polluting villages, causing more delays for car drivers and threatening the health of pedestrians.

If all this suggests that we can once again get out the Euro flag and tear it to shreds, a complication occurs to me. For it can be argued that in the matter of bridge tolls and VAT, the

British Government risks being hoist by its own petard.

If the Severn bridges had been built by the Government, it would be a simple matter to argue that they are a public service, just like any other road. But this is not the case. A private company owns both the crossings and is allowed to charge tolls for a fixed number of years.

This makes the bridges part of a commercial business, arguably subject to VAT. In which case, there are far wider implications. For is not the Government at present keenly researching ways and means of charging tolls on motorways? Indeed it is. So far there has been no mention of VAT in the calculations. But if the European Court rules that a bridge run by a private company must have its tolls subject to VAT, I see no difference between that and a motorway stretch run by a private company that charges a toll.

And what about schemes such as the Birmingham northern relief road, which involves "shadow tolls"? This plan would have the road built by a private company which, instead of charging each vehicle, is paid a toll by the Government based on the number of vehicles using the road.

Is this a private business? If so, we could be faced with the Government paying VAT to the company and the company handing it back to the Customs and Excise. It's enough to make you incandescent with rage.

Vaughan Freeman on the pick of past and planned designs shown by a new study

Cars we want, we won't get

THE FUTURE

Carless city centres, a clampdown to get petrol-driven cars off the road, and an age of smaller, "greener" high-tech cars driven by older motorists, is the tomorrow's world vision of motoring drawn up in a new report published this week.

Within 20 years electric and gas-powered vehicles will be common, particularly among public-service fleets such as buses, it forecasts. Many city centres will ban cars completely, and in other areas only fume-free cars, such as those that are battery-powered, will be allowed anywhere near town boundaries.

Cars, such as the 10ft-long Mini-sized Ford Ka, launched later this year, and the Vauxhall Maxx concept-car, will get ever smaller.

Despite their minuscule proportions however, such cars will be vital in a world in which up to 30 million cars, as opposed to today's 20million, will be sharing our roads — and they will have all the comfort and equipment once only associated with larger limousines.

They will routinely feature advanced technology in their cabins, including radar-controlled collision avoidance systems and infra-red sensors to make motoring at night and in fog much safer.

The report, by Warranty Holdings Group, the UK's largest supplier of used-vehicle programmes for leading car manufacturers, sought the opinions of leading figures in the motor industry worldwide. Warranty Holdings Group managing director Peter Head says: "Around 2015 will be a turning point in the history of the car. We will be on the verge of a new age of motoring, in which electric and other alternative powered vehicles are beginning to make an impact."

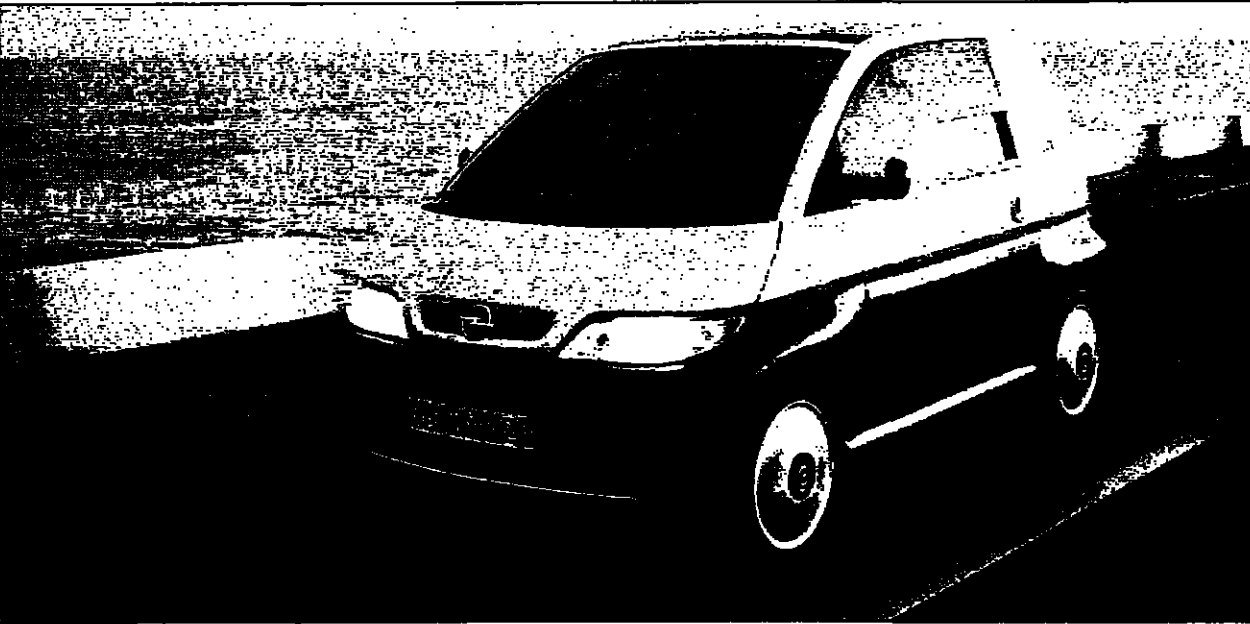
"You simply won't be able to take a large gas-guzzler into the centre of most big cities, so designers will be coming up with alternative vehicles which get around the problem. Consequently, we'll see a mixture of smaller petrol-driven, electric and hybrid vehicles on the road, although a highly fuel-efficient petrol engine will be the most common form of propulsion."

"The car of tomorrow will be equipped with a host of high-tech navigational, entertainment and safety aids. It will be quieter and more comfortable than the car of today, with a higher degree of specification and finish."

"Male dominance will de-



Mini and micro-sized vehicles such as the 10ft-long Ford Ka, launched later this year, will herald the revolution



Vauxhall is also pursuing the trend with its Maxx concept car, but far more radical vehicles are expected to emerge

crease. The field of car design, traditionally a male preserve, will see a growth in the number of female designers, resulting in subtle but significant influences which will contribute towards a friendlier, more practical and less macho image for the car."

Professor Garel Rhys of the Cardiff Business School, says in the report: "Engine fuel injection systems will be far more frugal than anything that exists at the moment. It will be like putting a pipette of petrol into the cylinders, rather

than just throwing it in by the bucket-load, which is almost what we do at the moment when you compare it with what could be possible."

While petrol cars become more efficient and less polluting, electric cars will evolve for use in areas where traffic is more dense, says Ken Greenley, head of transportation design at London's Royal College of Art: "At 70mph on the highway, the average petrol car is pretty efficient. Where it is useless is when it is stuck in a traffic jam or ticking

over at traffic lights. The criticism of electric motors is that they only have a range of about 100 miles and then they need to be recharged."

"But the average mileage of a London taxicab is only 60 to 70 miles a day. Most public service and delivery vehicles within the M25 could become electric."

The way cars are designed will also change, says Greenley, with more women expected to come into the male-dominated world of car design: "I think there are

certain sensitivities that are missing from cars, the evolution of shapes and designs may have been exhausted by the male design fraternity. But you're not going to get a 'girly' car. That route has been tried by men and it certainly doesn't work."

Designs will change as drivers change. The report says that demographic studies predict that motorists will live longer, and stay healthy and driving for longer.

On top of this, the generation of older drivers will have the spare cash to buy cars that are capable of carrying their golf clubs and bicycles; but cars will need to be designed so that such things can be loaded with ease into vehicles which are no larger than the micro cars of today.

While steel will dominate car construction, the use of other materials such as aluminium and magnesium for strength and lightness, will grow. For those people who do buy more environmentally friendly cars, the perks, as well as a clean conscience and cleaner air, could include preferential tax rates.

DREAM ON

E-type top of great cars poll

ACTRESSES and bishops have, it seems, more in common than dubious music-hall jokes and saucy seaside postcards. Both love cars, and often it is the same ones that excite their interest.

Actress Fiona Fullerton and his Grace the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Noel DeBroy Jones, might move in different circles, but they share a keen interest in cars. Both are enamoured of that icon of luxury motoring, the Rolls-Royce, as the car they would most like to own.

They both agree that the epitome of automotive beauty is embodied in the classically English lines of a Jaguar. For now the Bishop makes do with a Peugeot, while Fiona Fullerton has a claret-red Jaguar XJ6.

Roads minister John Watts (usually in a black Jaguar XJS), actress Jenny Seagrove (a Mercedes-Benz 190E), and Barbican Centre director John Tusa share the dream of a sensational Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing SL.

Junior Transport Minister John Bowis drives a humble Vauxhall Cavalier, but his dream car is the new Aston Martin DB7, and the Lamborghini Countach from Italy the design he most admires. The Italian connec-



Fiona Fullerton and the Bishop of Sodor and Man

tion is strong for his predecessor, Steven Norris, usually seen at the wheel of a Jaguar, but who most admires the Ferrari Performance is also a key factor in the choice of his favourite car of all time, the Bentley Turbo R.

THE WARRANTY Holdings Group survey found that Formula One driver David Coulthard's unlikely first vehicle was a Mercedes 508 diesel van, while the Bishop of Rochester first took to the road at the wheel of an MG Midget sports car, although he now has a car more usually associated with men of the cloth — a Rover saloon.

Designer Sir Terence Conran, whose own cars include a black Porsche 911, and a yellow Renault Twingo, first drove a Ford Thames van. Sir Terence cannot decide whether he would most like to own a VW Beetle or the Porsche 911, "two cars at opposite ends of the price spectrum, but united by the same designer".

Among 300 people questioned, the Jaguar E-Type was acclaimed as the most popular car design of all time. Second was the Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing, followed by the Citroën DS saloon.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● London
M1 junction 2 (A1, Hendon) slip road flyovers connecting the M1 and the A1 closed for long-term emergency repairs.

A4 Chiswick; major roadworks on the Great West Road with traffic down to two lanes during the day and a single lane overnight between the end of the M4 elevated section and Sutton Court Road.

A223 Orpington; major roadworks by the war memorial with various restrictions in operation. No entry to Sevenoaks Road from the roundabout.

A217 Wandsworth; roadworks at the roundabout on the south of Wandsworth Bridge. Delays on all approaches.

● South East
M4 junctions 12-14; overnight lane closures both ways, down to a single lane at times.

A4010 Princess Risborough; major roadworks at the junction with Duke Street, Longwick Road, the Aylesbury Road, and New Road with temporary lights.

A420 Cumnor Hill; off-peak lane closures in both directions with a 40mph speed restriction.

M20 junction 8; roadworks with one lane closed.

A259 Folkestone; width restrictions on Canterbury Road.

M25 junctions 8-10; major widening work between Godstone and the A3, with restrictions and contraflows.

● South West
M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow between Bristol West and Clevedon with a 50mph speed limit over the Avonmouth Bridge.

A38 Gloucester; major roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout. Regular delays.

A38 West Herts; temporary lights will cause long delays on Bleak Bridge. Major delays on the August 19.

A3027 Taunton; temporary lights on North Street.

A3102 Swindon; roadworks at the Marnington roundabout. Lane closure on the approaches from Great Western Way and Wootton Bassett Road.

● Midlands and East Anglia
A632 Near Chesterfield; roadworks on Langwith Road at Bolsover Lane.

A516 Derby; single lane off-peak between Manor Hospital and A511 Kingsway, with the road closed on Sunday.

A6 Leicester; roadworks on London Road between Mayfield Road Island and Stoughton.

A38 Outside Burton; contraflow between Branston and Barton, with diversions.

A46 Kenilworth bypass; major work near the A429 and B4115 roundabout, with contraflow, speed restrictions and lane closures.

● Northern Ireland
A2 Carrickfergus; restrictions on Larne Road at the junction with Rawlson Road.

M1 junction 10-11; traffic down to the hard shoulder.

A3 Portadown; work on Northway at junction with Mill Avenue.

A22 Downpatrick; Old Belfast Road closed from Strangford Road to Quoile Road. Diversions.

A49 Downpatrick; temporary lights on Magheraknock Road on the Lisburn side of Martin's Quarry.

A2 Ballykelly; temporary lights on Main Street.

Highways Agency Infoline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Endurance fun

If you fancy driving across Europe through Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and on to Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa then now is the time to sign up for the London-Cairo-Cape Town Reliability Trial and Adventure Drive. The event, to be held in June and July 1998, promises to be one of the greatest motoring adventures yet. It is being organised by John Brown, the man behind LE JOC, the Land's End to John O'Groats classic car trial, and Fred Gallagher, three times winner of the challenging East African Safari. The journey is expected to take 32 days. Details from: 01886 833505.

Big Suzi

Suzuki's largest passenger car yet, the Baleno saloon, has been given a facelift and a new 1.8-litre aluminium engine. Standard specification includes anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, central locking, twin airbags, electric windows and mirrors and power steering. Its on-the-road price is £12,020.

Green meanie

Greenpeace last week challenged the motor industry to pay more attention to the environment by unveiling its own version of Renault's Twingo, one of the continent's most popular small cars. In the Twingo SmILE (Small Intelligent Light Efficient), a supercharged two-cylinder engine of just 360cc replaces the Renault 1.24-litre unit and is claimed to deliver 75-88mpg against the 42mpg average of the production car. Corin Millais, of Greenpeace UK, said of the specially commissioned car: "If Greenpeace has been able to develop this technology, why can't the car industry, with all its expertise and experience?"

Minor fortune

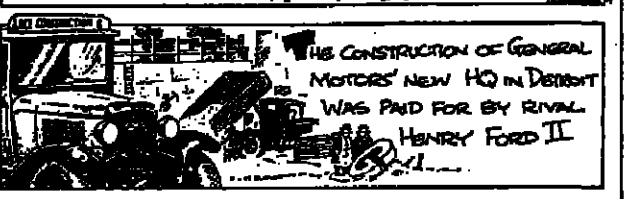
Mike Fletcher, who owns a 1949 convertible which he calls "the best Morris Minor in the world", paid £25,975 for five drawings of the car by its designer Sir Alec Issigonis on Thursday. They were among 11 designs for the Minor and the Mini sold at Christie's for a total of £33,925.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

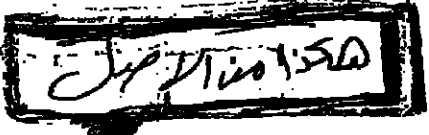
MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST CIRCUIT. ALTHOUGH REGULATIONS RESTRICT AVERAGE SPEEDS TO ONLY 235 M.P.H., UNTIL 1950 EXOTIC CARS WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRIVE AT MORE THAN 30 M.P.H.



THE DELAUNE-BELLEVILLE LIMOUSINE BUILT FOR TSAR NICHOLAS II IN 1910 HAD NO FASTER THAN EIGHT FOOT PEDALS.



THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENERAL MOTORS' NEW HQ IN DETROIT WAS PAID FOR BY RIVAL HENRY FORD II.



Girl on motorbike fires up



Novices go

New biker Linda Galloway beats the boys at their own game on the best of today's mid-range machines

Girl on a motorbike fires up



The Bandit, top, was hard to part with. The Ducati even harder

I always envied the boys next door. They had motorbikes, Suzuki 50s, and whenever my mother was out I used to climb over the wall and beg them to let me ride. But if I got caught I was in for at least a few days' grounding. Now that the threat of parental censure has receded, I have won my two-wheeled freedom, leathers and all.

Fed up with parking fines and garage fees, high road tax, maintenance charges and, most of all, traffic congestion and frayed city tempers, more and more commuters are taking to motorbikes. It is a brave move, away from the protection and comforts of modern cars. Choosing to be a biker also means no lifts home for friends and no big impulse purchases. You learn to travel light and to wear leather with attitude; it really is the best bet for protection, and for women it has another advantage: in helmet and leathers you are anonymous.

That said, being a "girl on a bike" can single you out for attention, but in my experience this has been good-humoured envy from men in cars, especially if you're on something powerful. On the whole, the relationship between motorist and biker is not healthy, and irritation has a lot to do with it judging by the murderous looks I've received when ripping through gridlocked intersections.

I enrolled at a rider-training centre to learn as much as I could about safe, defensive riding — the fact that a doctor friend calls

motorcyclists "organ donors" influenced my choice. I received my Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) certificate after eight hours of tuition in the middle of a -4C freeze — a rude re-introduction to both the hazards and the drawbacks of biking. I then did a Road-Rider course — 12 hours of on and off-road tuition on a hired 125cc bike, with unlimited refresher lessons.

I spread my lessons over several weeks and met many would-be bikers. Some had provisional licences about to expire, others had always meant to but never got round to it, a few were enjoying gift-lessons and one wanted to work as a motorcycle courier.

My first purchase was a pair of insulated riding gloves at £30. A helmet was next: the answer to the question "how much should I spend?" is invariably "how much do you value your head?" Prices range from about £35 for a cheap open-face nut-cracker; there is no upper limit for full-face optimum protection, but £300 is at the expensive end for normal road use.

Money spent on protective clothing which could save your life is well spent. Wearing biking leathers reinforced with body armour may sound excessive, but padded elbows, shins and kidneys are more likely to emerge bruised than battered after a high-speed tumble.

In choosing the machine, cost and colour are not the only factors; looks must be weighed up against attractiveness to thieves, particularly in cities. Female riders — and tiny men — are confronted with height



The Virago: fine name for woman's publisher, but not a woman's bike: the ergonomics are poor and the chopper styling lacks street-cred

and weight handicaps that can rule out even some under-250cc bikes. Yamaha's Virago 535 is a pseudo-chopper remake with Harley lookalike chrome styling. The *Born to be Wild* look impresses non-bikers but has little street-cred. It's born to be mild, really: the middle sister in a family of 250 and 1100cc models, sometimes dismissively referred to as a "girl's bike". I felt at a distinct weight-disadvantage, with the wind beating against my chest and threatening to blow me right off while circling the M25. I felt ambivalent about this motorcycle: I enjoyed the ride but the look was not for me.

The Suzuki GSF N600 Bandit,

was more like it, combining retro styling (chrome instruments, engine detail and exhaust) with performance looks. With almost-perfect weight distribution for female riders and slightly raised handlebars, the Bandit is a more challenging ride than the Virago, with that characteristic "Suzuki" whine in the upper rev register. I had difficulty parting with it.

More intimidating, both in looks and design, was Kawasaki's ZX6R Ninja. Its high-intensity performance styling and racing colours shriek "boy-racer". With the added girth of the fairing it felt heavy and less manoeuvrable in slow traffic, but on the motorway it danced on

tip-toe, light as a feather and super-responsive. The Ninja was also my introduction to Britain's busy motorcycle-theft industry. After three days' custodianship, someone tried to hot-wire it outside my home — which says more about it than I ever could.

The Honda CBR600F is similarly prone to disappearing. Lesson learnt, I parked it out of harm's way. I found it quiet and well-behaved but quite claustrophobic in the city, with most of the power stacked at the top end; a long and winding country road is required to unleash it. And then it lives up to its

high-performance looks and goes and goes and goes.

I saved the best (but not the most expensive) for last: the Ducati 600 Monster's design, styling and performance are irresistible. It's the perfect bike, compact, clean looks, evenly distributed weight and power, no excess paint or panelling and the cutest twin-exhaust behind you've ever seen. We bonded instantly on an early-morning jaunt from Northampton and it had to be priced out of my hands after a week-long love affair.

I've made the switch from four to two wheels, painlessly so far, although the lingo still escapes me. But please don't tell my mother.

Easy rider, racer or retro: how they rate

VIRAGO 535

Manufacturer: Yamaha
Displacement: 535cc
Transmission: 5-speed shaft-drive
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 13.5 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £4,499
Pose rating: poor man's Harley-Davidson. 5/10

N600 BANDIT

Manufacturer: Suzuki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed constant mesh
Dry weight: 196kg
Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres
Fuel economy: 45 miles per gallon
Price: £4,399
Pose rating: retro styling attracts attention. 7/10

NINJA ZX-6R

Manufacturer: Kawasaki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed x-ring chain
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 18 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £7,195
Pose rating: boy-racer's go-faster paintwork. 4/10

CBR600F

Manufacturer: Honda
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed
Dry weight: 185kg
Fuel tank capacity: 17 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,995
Pose rating: A racy ride. Impresses Barry Sheene wannabes. 7/10

600 MONSTER

Manufacturer: Ducati
Displacement: 583cc
Transmission: 5-speed
Dry weight: 175kg
Fuel tank capacity: 16.5 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,000
Pose rating: She's a babe. Loved by cognoscenti and bystanders alike. 10/10

Novices get the feeling of free-wheeling

Kevin Eason and colleagues learn how little wheels beat the traffic

You know that bloke on a scooter you made a rude gesture at the other day: the little guy with the black helmet? He came through on your inside at the lights and screamed off into the distance? Well, I confess that was me.

I discovered the joys of the scooter in cities so clogged with cars that the traffic looks as though it is permanently parked down the length of the road instead of commuting.

It took a couple of days to get used to the feeling, but once I was attuned to putting my feet up and — as Beryl Reid so aptly put it in *The Killing of Sister George* — feeling 125cc throbbing between my legs, there was nothing to beat my Piaggio Sfera for getting in and out of work.

I weaved in and out of the traffic at the lights, I could sprint away from everything but the odd Ferrari and in five days of travelling, I spent just over a fiver on petrol.

But before you consider joining the rush to two wheels in a haze of nostalgia for the Lambretta, remember some important facts. You fall off scooters, so you learn to fix car drivers at junctions with a

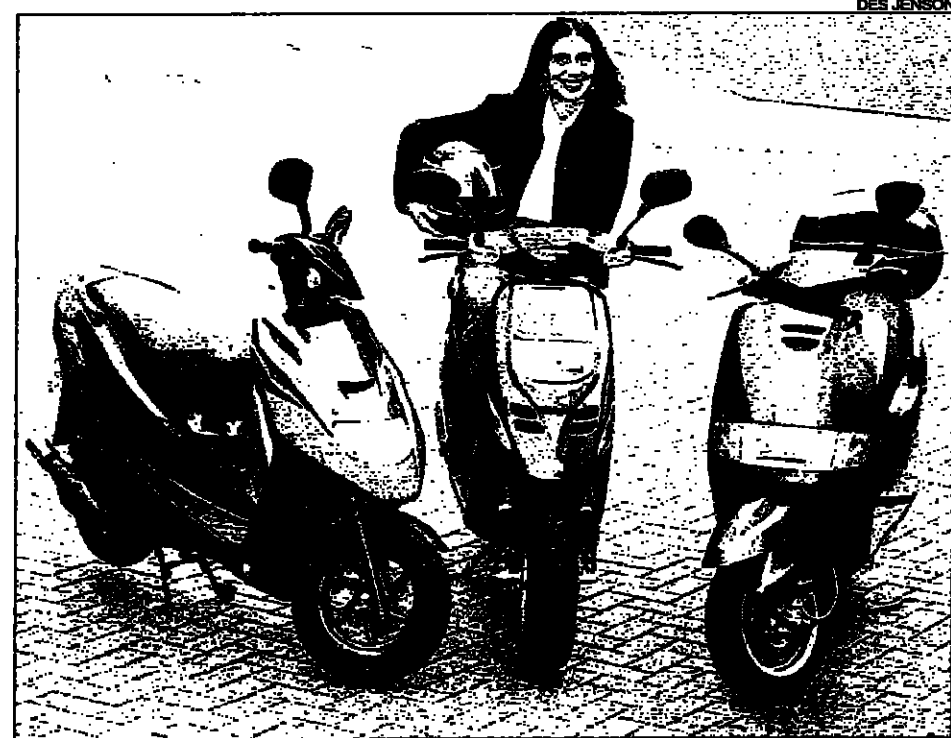
steely gaze as if hypnotising them into staying where they are. Wear the appropriate gear — leather trousers, are not only fetching, they avoid skinned knees and keep thighs from feeling as though they have been deep frozen.

Practise riding, particularly starting and stopping, which are the crisis moments in every scooterist's life.

And, as a fashion note, take some curling tongs to work because those helmets just take all the life and shape out of your hair.

To test the new wave of scooters, Car 96 recruited two novices: Jennai Cox, a commuter from South London, took our Suzuki AP50, while Lindsay Maggs, intrepid photographer and resident of Southend, Essex, tried a Piaggio Typhoon 50cc.

NEVER having ridden a motorbike before, I took my compulsory basic training on the Suzuki AP50, which is an automatic, writes Jennai Cox. Not having to concentrate on gear changes or worry about stalling meant I got the hang of driving confidently within half an hour. Whizzing round the car park of the training



Novice Jennai Cox with, from left, the Suzuki AP50 and the 50cc and 125cc Piaggios

centre I felt like a fly, the scooter is so easy to manoeuvre.

The first encounter with traffic was a little scary. Without the security of a windscreen or doors I felt very vulnerable and was much more aware of what was happening on the road.

But by the time I had to drive home I was happy doing 35mph (the maximum speed is about 40mph), and everything riders say about scooters being fun is true. I can't wait to get one of my own.

MY NOVICE status must have shone out as I rode the

Piaggio scooter for the first time, writes Lindsay Maggs. A police car followed me for five miles through London's Friday-night rush hour, and the driver was surprised when I told him I was riding to Southend. He asked why I was not wearing gloves.

Two hours later I arrived

home, cold but happy that I had sat out the journey at a top speed of 40mph, using only half a tank of petrol.

There is very little that can go wrong. The headlights turn on and off automatically, and to start the bike the front brake must be held in when the electronic starter button is pressed.

It's so simple, but the riding position on the Piaggio 50cc is very upright — hardly ideal for long distances, as the wind hits with direct force. Under the seat there is space for a crash helmet or a bag but not both.

Steering the machine is fine, apart from on really sharp corners: this demands practice because the wheels are so small that the bike initially feels unsteady. Putting the bike on the centre stand also requires a certain technique. Pushing the stand firmly down into the ground makes the bike gently lift itself up.

My return to London took only one and a half hours and cost £1.59 for petrol. At some points the lack of acceleration made the bike vulnerable, particularly when traffic merged from the right slip road into the centre lane. For town driving it would be hard to match, but for longer distances I would choose something more powerful.

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94M Mercedes E220 4dr Auto, Bonito, Elec.S/Roof, P.A.S., Elec.Mirrors, CD Player, Radio/Cass., 68K	£16,325
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93L Mercedes 190E 2.0 4dr Auto, Elec.S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloys, Radio/Cass., Dark Fect, 68K	£12,375
94M BMW 318i 4dr Man, Black, P.A.S., Air Bag, 54K	£11,825
94M Omega 2.0 16 Valve CD Man, Blue, Elec.S/Roof, P.A.S., Alloys, Twin Air Bags, 30K	£11,425
92K BMW 520i Man, Black, Elec.S/Roof, Alloys, Full Ltr, Multipack CD, 54K	£10,395
93K Nissan 200 SX 1.8 16 Valve Turbo, Black, P.A.S., 44K	£9,975
94M Rover 623i S Man, White, P.A.S., Air Bag, 54K	£9,495

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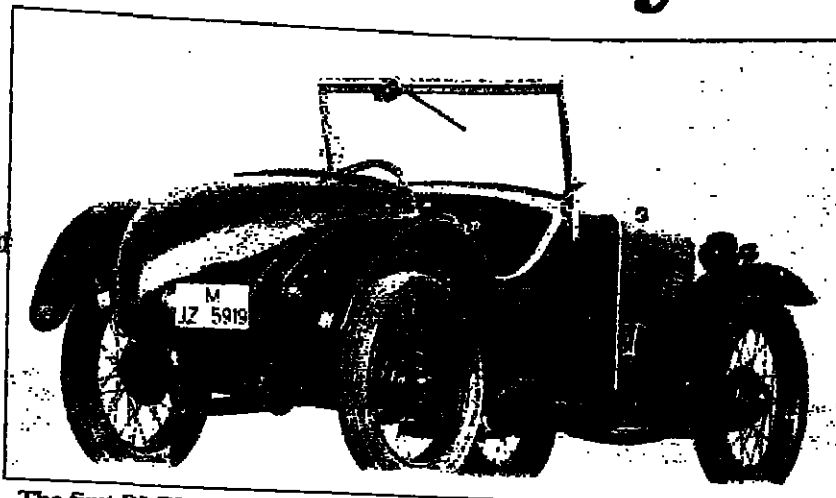
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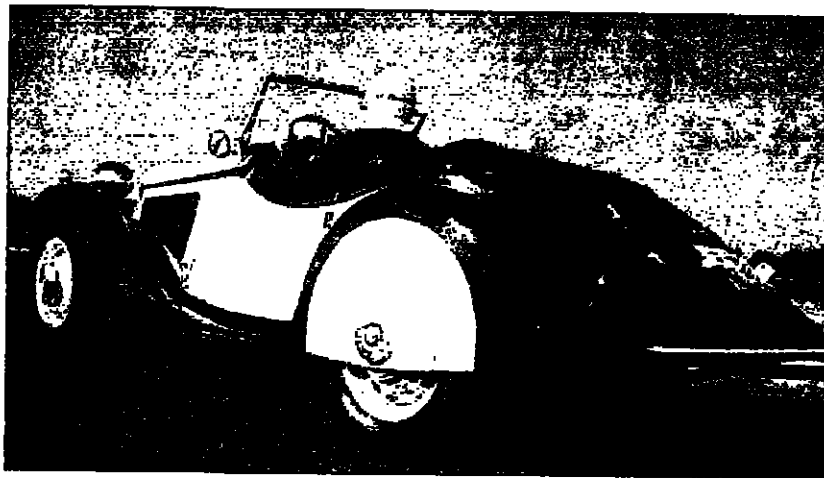
CAR 96

BMW stars in the leading US concours event in the year it starts making cars there, reports Eric Dymock

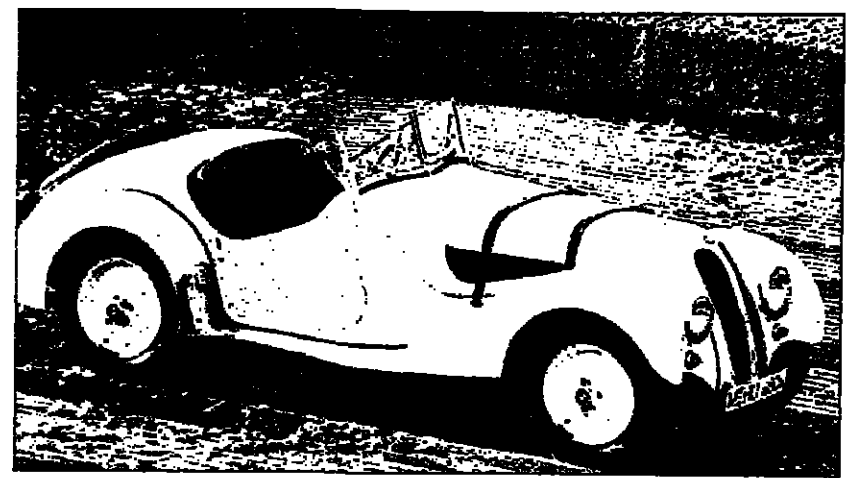
Germany invades America's glitterati



The first BMWs were based on Austin Sevens, but increasingly modified



The 315 rewrote sporting car design, with its soft springs and stiff chassis



The 328, one of the best 1930s sports cars, inspired Frazer-Nash to import it

Brooklands' old spirit survives among the warm palm beaches and coconut groves of California.

"The Right Crowd and No Crowding", the Brooklands racetrack slogan from its opening in 1906 until its last chequered flag in 1939, has translated easily to America's Laguna Seca Raceway, which clings to the pine-fringed semi-desert off Highway 101, south of San Jose.

This is the home of Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance, the most glamorous annual display of historic cars in the United States and arguably in the world. Appropriately, in the year that BMW has started manufacturing cars in the United States, the German company is the Concours's featured marque.

Instead of the clipped vowels of aristocrats like Earl Howe, Prince Bira or Count Zborowski, who frequented the Brooklands paddock, this weekend will hear the drawl of rich, corporate America. Families like the Fords and the Firestones, who created America's motor industry, will talk stars with stars such as arch-enthusiast Paul Newman, who has his own racing team.

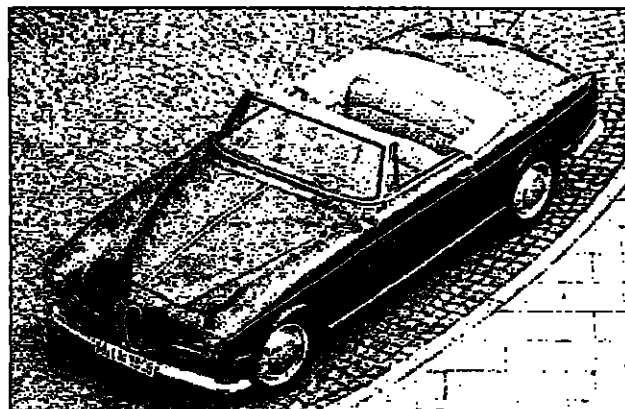
The Monterey Peninsula was the cradle of American sportscar racing, with machines roaring down the streets of elegant Pebble Beach in the 1940s. Now it is once again given over to cars: the annual parade on the 18th hole of Pebble Beach golf course is made up of cars in better condition than they were when they left the factory anything up to 90 years ago.

Americans tend to over-restore, adding chrome where there was none, burnishing anything burnishable, and polishing off the patina of age. The effect is often stunning but curiously sterile.

The standing quip among the veterans who turn up to watch is that the cars have lasted better than they have. Either way, both veteran and vintage will be elegantly arrayed between the exclusive Pebble Beach Lodge and a deep blue creek on the edge of the Pacific. As the sun burns off the mist that rolls in from the ocean and the tailored covers come off, the varnished wood and shining metal shimmer in the blinding light.

Amid all the splendours on display, one of the treasures brought over especially from BMW's Munich museum looks surprisingly modest, and bears more than a passing resemblance to a 1922 Austin Seven. BMW's fortunes were founded on a car conceived in secret in the billiard room of Herbert Austin's home at Lickey Grange, Bromsgrove, Birmingham.

BMW began making aero-engines in 1911, but under the Treaty of Versailles it had to



BMW returned to roadsters with models like the 503

concentrate on motorcycles until 1928, when it bought the Dixi car factory in Eisenach.

Dixi made Austin Sevens under licence, starting with a batch of 50 cars built from British components. It agreed to make 2,000 a year, cheated and made 9,000, but it was still not enough to pay off the overdraft. BMW then took over. There were open two-seaters, four-seat touring cars, a two-door saloon, convertibles, and a delivery van. The 1930 BMW 3/15 Wartburg on show at Laguna Seca is a sporty version with an extra

three horsepower. This model gave BMW its first racing victory at the Nurburgring with German MG enthusiast Bobby Kohrausch.

BMW decided the little baby Austin was crude. It got the firm into cars, but component by component it was redesigned, with a smooth-running roller-bearing crankshaft and overhead valves for more power.

By 1932 the car was more BMW than Austin: the licensing agreement was ended, the



The roadster evolved into the Z3 used in Goldeneye

chassis strengthened, and a new engine introduced.

In the 1934 Alpine Trial, the BMW 315 rewrote the specification of the sporting car which until then had stiff springs and a flexible chassis. BMW introduced soft springs and a stiff chassis, transforming the handling and roadholding. It evolved into the 328, one of the finest sports cars of the 1930s. Frazer-Nash, which manufactured the archetypal British sports car, saw the writing on the wall and started importing them. BMW's astonishing engine

was developed by Bristol and provided Mike Hawthorn with the power to make his mark in the 1950s.

The 328 reached its apotheosis in 1939 and 1940, and the museum's roadsters at Laguna Seca include the trend-setting 1940 Mille Miglia car which inspired Sir William Lyons when he drew up the XK120 Jaguar of 1948. Spirited out of Germany in 1945, the Mille Miglia BMW was relaunched as a Frazer-Nash, and raced in Britain by Gilbert Tyrer, a Liverpool garage owner, in the 1950s. It was

restored as a BMW by Michael Bowler, founding editor of *Classic Car* magazine, and returned to the BMW museum in the 1960s.

It has been back in Britain twice. It took part in the Ecurie Ecosse tour of Scotland in 1993 and reappeared for this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. It is reunited with the newly-restored aluminium roadster BMWs commissioned by the NSKK, the National Socialist Motor Vehicle Corps. The bodies were built by the Italian Touring coachbuilder in 1940 and never raced again.

BMW returned to the roadster business in 1955 with the 507. It was a technical and artistic success but scarcely a commercial one. Only 252 were ever made. The 1986 Z1 was a technical masterpiece with a hot-dip galvanised frame and a plastic body, and although 8,000 were produced between 1988 and 1991 it too never achieved the success it deserved.

BMW is hoping for better things with the Z3, the roadster that starred in the last James Bond epic. Built in BMW's American factory at Spartanburg, the 1.9-litre two-seater takes some styling fea-

tures from the 507 and will go on sale in Britain in competition with the MGF.

If concours fails to stir the blood, the racing at Laguna Seca just might. Historic racing is no less hectic because the cars are old, and no quarter is given just because

an old car is irreplaceable. Racing cars were crashed and overhauled constantly when they were new, so the original fabric is less important than a continuous history. A new chassis, new engine, and a new body does not change a car's identity.

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£6,000	12.9%	£619.56	£6,195.60
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The Pebble Beach concours is not just a show, reports Alan Copps. Its auctions are a celebrity chaser's dream

Cars of the stars for sale

Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance is glitzy, but the business part of the weekend is auctions. The cars for sale are every bit as rare, beautiful and well-connected as the examples simply for show.

There are two auctions: one by the local company, Rick Cole, is selling Elvis Presley's BMW; the other, Christie's major American auction of the year has a host of intriguing entries including the car that Gregory Peck fell in love with in 1962, a Bentley S2 Continental Flying Spur. Used only for "special outings and occasions" it has accumulated 84,000 miles during his 34 years of ownership.

History is all with such cars and the amounts spent on service and maintenance are carefully detailed in the car's documents. The notes give an amusing hint that even the very rich and very famous have to put up with very rich and very famous. Reporting: "The irritating motoring niggles, reporting: 'The car's oil pressure is reading low but has car's oil pressure is reading low but has recently been checked by a Rolls-Royce and Bentley specialist who confirms the gauge is not reading correctly.'"

Another Bentley S2 dating from 1962 was bought new by the actress Joan Fontaine and

has been owned by her ever since. In an auction which boasts a choice of 16 Rolls-Royces and is studded with half-million-dollar cars, the Bentleys have comparatively modest estimates of £13,000 to £19,000.

The serious money in the Christie's auction room will be chasing the 1949 Ferrari 166MM, one of only 25 made. It was second in the Mille Miglia, crashed while leading the Le Mans 24-hour race (its driver Pierre Louis Dreyfus used the pseudonym Ferret).

After the car was rebuilt, it went on to win the 24-hour race at Spa, soundly beating the Delages, which boasted engines twice the size of its 2-litre V12. That victory effectively founded the Ferrari racing legend.

This car, with the chassis number 0010M, was subsequently bought by Jim Kimberly, heir to the Kimberly Kleenex fortune and raced on the old Pebble Beach street circuit. In his and other hands it scored a series of victories in American sportscar racing and then passed into the hands of collectors. Its restoration has been so complete that it won a first prize at the Pebble Beach Concours. It could go for £650,000.



Gregory Peck with his cherished 1961 Bentley Flying Spur, used for special outings

With your help, our centenary search has unearthed more machines and created a mystery, says Tony Dawe

Shy models found with famous names

ADRIAN BROOKS

MOTOR CITY
COVENTRY

30th August to 1st September 1996

Proud owners are set to parade rare and beautiful machines built by well-known manufacturers

Sitting in a cornfield in Warwickshire, the splendid red 1920s coupe looks as if it is taking part in a publicity shoot for a remake of *Bonnie and Clyde*. It is in reality preparing for the celebration of one hundred years of the British motor industry.

The Standard Charleote, made in 1926 and the only one surviving, will feature in a parade of famous Coventry-made cars which will launch three days of festivities in the city at the end of this month.

The elegant motor, which is in perfect working order after much restoration, has come to light after Car 96 joined forces with the organisers of *Motor in the City* to hunt for models from the dozens of Coventry carmakers.

The search has turned up Cluleys and Stoneleighs and provided proof, if not examples, of Emmis and Iden. The latest haul includes more familiar names: Standard and Siddeley, Alvis and Cooper — but less familiar models. The Charleote is owned and driven by Paul Newsome, whose family has earned its own place in Coventry's motoring history.

"On quiet straight country roads the car goes quite well and is reasonably lively, but on winding roads and in traffic it can be difficult," he says.

"The car has a centrally placed accelerator which means I have to concentrate harder. If it's raining, every time I put my foot on the pedal the windscreen wipers stop because they work by vacuum."

The Charleote was one of several stylish models built by Standard in the 1920s and named after Warwickshire towns. Its crafted badge and dashboard were typical of the care lavished on the models, but few were made and the company had more success with its cheaper models, the Standard Eight and Ten.

Newsome snapped up the car in 1961 because it dates from the year his father Sammy first won a franchise to sell Standard cars.



The sole surviving 1931 Standard Charleote coupe poses ready for the cavalcade. The car was one of several stylish models built by the Coventry carmaker in the 1920s and named after local towns

Newsome senior was himself a Coventry carmaker in the early 1920s, producing light cars with Coventry Climax engines. "Only a handful were made because there were dozens of people producing similar cars, so he set up the dealership instead," his son says. He did however produce a racing version called the Warwick for a 500-mile race at Brooklands but it performed poorly and that enterprise died as well. Both Cooper and Warwick feature in the list of Coventry-made models which can no longer be traced.

John Siddeley, another famous Coventry carmaker, features prominently in the collection of Nigel Bradshaw of Lytham St Anne's. Siddeley founded the Siddeley Auto Car Company in 1902. The company was soon taken over by Wolseley, but cars with the

Siddeley name were made for a couple of years and one is owned and driven by Bradshaw.

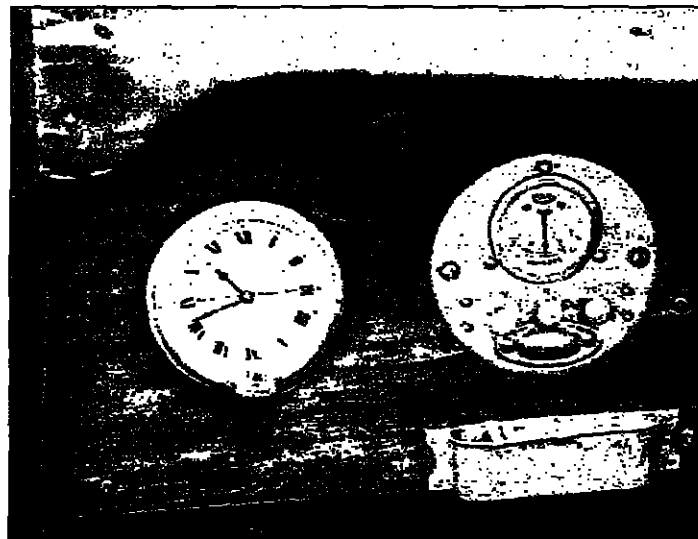
It was miles ahead of its day, he says, "with a belt-driven fan, gearbox and engine linked together and overhead inlet valves with side exhausts".

After the Wolseley takeover Siddeley joined the company founded by Captain Deasy and added his initials to the name of a model which Bradshaw also owns. Siddeley-Deasy cars were produced until a merger with Armstrong Whitworth of Newcastle led to the famous Armstrong Siddeley marque.

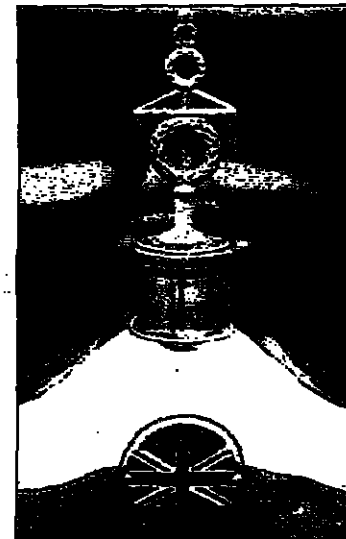
"My 1910 Deasy JDS is the only one which survives and has been in my family for fifty years," Bradshaw says. "It is used regularly, has been from John O'Groats to

Lands End and abroad. It's a very original car, a four-seat 12hp tourer with a radiator on the bulkhead and a bonnet shape which earned it the nickname of Jack Siddeley's coffin."

Bradshaw and his son Jonathan will be driving the two cars in the Coventry Collection parade on Friday August 30 and one man who hopes to join them is John Mauger of Beccles, Suffolk. He owns a 1949 Alvis 14 drop-head coupe with bodywork by Carbodies of Coventry, better known now for making London taxis. "I expect Carbodies bodywork is already well represented," writes Mauger, "but my very original and low-mileage car is not on any list so the organisers will not know about it." Now they do, and the parade is becoming more and more impressive.



The Charleote's dashboard and badge typify the care lavished on Standard's costlier products



AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a fabulous day's racing at Silverstone

The Times, in association with ACC Jaguar, offers you the chance to win an exciting day at the British GT Championships at Silverstone, Northants, on Sunday, October 13.

The winner and a companion will be VIP guests of the ACC Jaguar team. You will meet their four drivers, visit the pits, have an unrivalled view of the race and enjoy a superb buffet lunch.

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With its first major sponsorship leading telephone service provider, ACC, is pinning its hopes of a win on two race-modified cars in the BRDC GT Championships. The 3.5-litre mid-engined Jaguar XJ220s produce more than 600 bhp.

The cars (one is pictured below) will be competing with the McLaren F1, Marcos and Porsche 993 in the climax of the British GT championships.

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Was carmaker Marendaz really a noble?



The Marendaz Special: a reader had difficulty getting rid of one

More accounts of the shadowy Count

Of all the characters associated with the first hundred years of the British motor industry, Marcus Marendaz has stirred most interest among readers.

Sheila Lewis of Coventry wrote last month of her father's excitement at working for Count Marendaz and riding with the cars to the station to be dispatched by rail.

Allan Lupton of the Lea-Francis Owners' Club responded: "Count Marendaz indeed! Captain D.M.K. Marendaz, who operated as Marsal from 1919-25 in Coventry and subsequently under his own name in London, was an inveterate writer to the press until his relatively recent death. His usual topic was the robust defence of his motor cars against some slight, real or imagined, that had appeared in print. What he would have written about his elevation to the nobility defies imagination."

James Thomas of London recalls that Marendaz was a premium apprentice at the same time as his

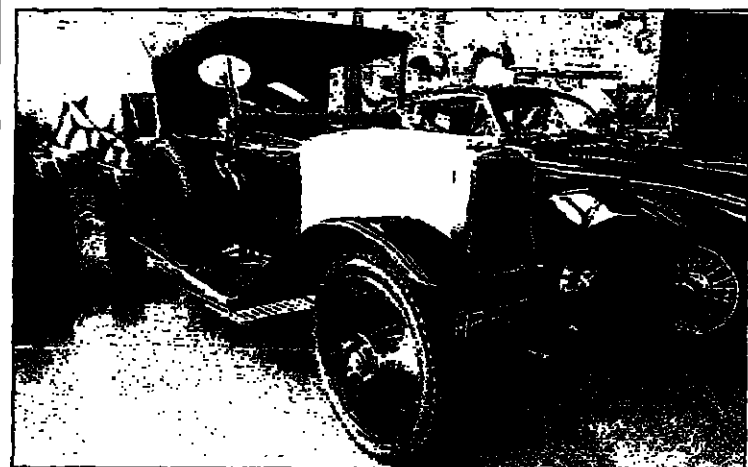
father, Cyril John Thomas, at the Siddeley-Deasy company in Coventry. He writes: "In 1912, in their first year, the apprentices got a penny an hour. I have my father's indenture which shows this."

Marendaz later moved to Brixton and then Maidenhead, where he produced his Marendaz Specials.

Mrs Langley of Campton, Bedfordshire, sent a photograph of one of the Specials owned by her late husband. "He purchased the Marendaz from a Mr Bendall of Stevenage in the early 1950s for £95 and we spent a lot of time doing it up including painting it in post office red with black mudguards. I had the headlights rechromed at the Marmet baby carriage factory in Leckworth where I worked."

"When we got engaged, he realised he couldn't afford to run it, so after trying to sell it to various garages on the North Circular in London, he sold it back to Mr Bendall for £25. It would be wonderful if we could still trace the car."

Readers remind us of forgotten marque



Coventry's British Museum of Road Transport has an example

The fated Albatros returns to haunt us

The fateful omission of one important marque in our list of Coventry-made cars published on July 20 has pursued us like its doom-laden namesake.

Mr B. Blackwell, secretary of the Standard Register writes to report a sighting of the Albatros, marketed in the 1923-24 season. An unremarkable "assembled" small car, he says, powered by a Coventry Climax engine definitely made an appearance in a car showroom in Cardigan in the mid to late 1960s. "I would opine that it is probably still extant," he assures us.

In fact the Museum of British Road Transport at Coventry can confirm his theory: it has a 1923 Albatros four-cylinder tourer preserved in its own museum.

Whether the car was originally intended to have a name of ill omen or was merely a corruption of its maker's name, Albert Ross, is still disputed by motoring historians.

The company was certainly ill-fated, surviving for just two years,

from 1923 to 1924 and was typical of many small firms which went into the motor industry but just could not make a go of it.

The model in the museum is ten horsepower and has been completely refurbished to its original condition with an open two-seater body with dickey seat.

The museum has also unearthed an advertisement from *The Light Car and Cyclecar* magazine which offers a model called "Chummy" for £240 "delivery at works" including "electric lighting, self-starter, spare wheel and cord tyres".

The museum will be at the centre of the British motor industry's centenary celebrations at the end of this month, with special displays and a mini street for youngsters to practise the highway Code and their driving skills in pedal cars. It will also be sending some of its prize exhibits, including six historic Daimlers on the Mayflower Shakespear run through Warwickshire on Sunday September 1.

Handwritten signature: "John Thomas 1950"

DR DASHBOARD

Can I learn to scooter?

Q I always thought motorbikes were for kids or middle-aged macho blokes, but scootering sounds a great way to beat the jams. Will I have to take a test before I can get on one?

A So long as you opt for a scooter with an engine of less than 50cc, a top speed not exceeding 30mph and a maximum weight of 250kg it is classified as a moped and your car licence permits you to drive it. But that performance is very limited if you want to travel more than short distances.

Q I'm not really Hell's Angel material, but I think I'd like something a bit larger than that. What do I do to get a licence?

A That depends how old you are and what kind of scooter or bike you want. The first thing you need is an invaluable leaflet issued by the Motorcycle Rider Training Association and the Department of Transport. It bears the rather wordy title, *So you want to ride a moped or motorcycle. Here's what the new law says*. You should have no trouble finding one at your local dealer or call the MRTA on 0171-580 9122.

Q I don't like the sound of "New law." That's the kind of phrase that strikes fear into the heart of the sanest road user. Is this surrounded by bureaucracy?

A You need to pass a theory test to ride a moped or motorcycle, just as you would for a car. The most important difference is something called Compulsory Basic Training (CBT), which you must do before you can ride on the road.

Q How long does the Compulsory Basic Training course take and where do I go to do it?

A A dealer or the MRTA will point you in the right direction, but you must go to a training organisation which is approved by the Driving Standards Agency. Most of these will hire or loan you a bike and protective clothing, so you don't have to invest in a machine if you're not sure about your future on two wheels. The course, which can be completed in a day but usually takes longer, is designed to ensure that you understand the controls and can manoeuvre the bike. Once you've got a CBT certificate you can ride on public roads with L-plates. You then have

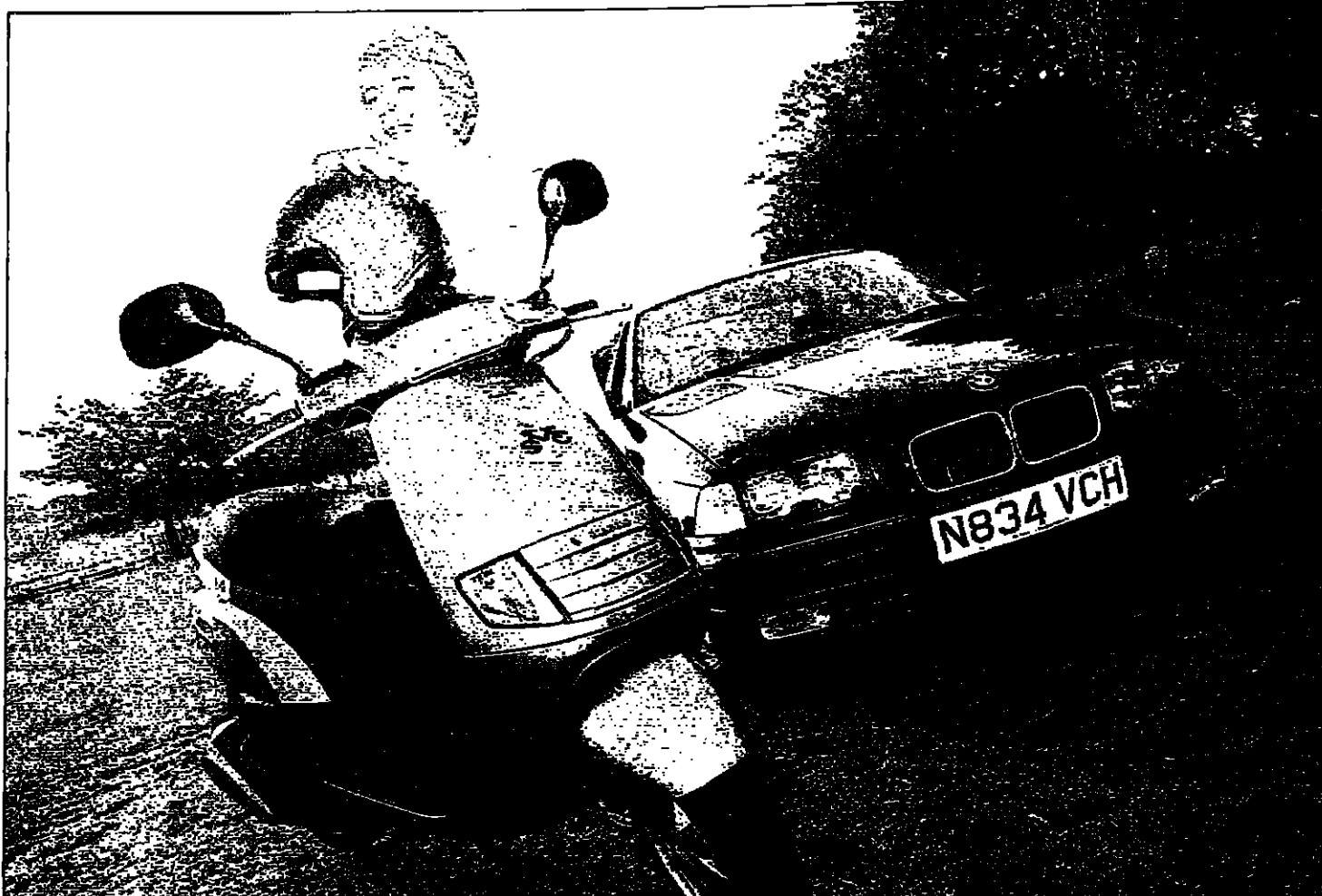
three years to pass the theory and practical driving tests.

Q This sounds like a lot of training to start. What happens after all that?

A That depends how old you are, whether you already have a full car licence and what sort of motorcycle licence you want (The law is changing again and from January 1, 1997, there will be three types). If you are over 21 you can take the test on a motorcycle of at least 35kW power (about 45bhp) and a pass allows you to ride a bike of any size. If you are under 21 or using your full car licence as a provisional motorcycle licence you are restricted to a motorcycle of up to 125cc until you have passed both theory and practical tests.

Q And what are these three different sorts of motorcycle licence about, then?

A An automatic licence, which could be useful for scooter riders; a light motorcycle licence which restricts you to 125cc and a standard licence, although depending on your age you may still face restrictions with it.



Monica Dickman: I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport to boost two-wheelers

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The day I took my Cortina gliding

Jennai Cox talks to long-term scooter rider Monica Dickman

Bikes were in her blood before she was born, says Monica Dickman. She has worked in the motorcycle industry for 25 years and last month became the first female chairman of the Motorcycle Industry Association of Great Britain. She joined the motorcycle finance house, RIGP, in 1971 as an underwriter and after working in marketing took charge of sales. Her real interest in motorcycles started after riding a scooter in the 1960s, and for short journeys Monica still uses a Piaggio Skipper 125cc.

STEERING COLUMN

People who hog the outside lane of the motorway. They poole along at 70mph in no hurry to get anywhere but just sit in the lane. I call them Sunday drivers, they really annoy me.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car?

Paragliding the Ford Cortina. I was late for a meeting and not wanting to be stuck at some traffic lights I was approaching, took a detour I had never tried before into a kind of demolition site. It was pouring with rain and I had to go through a big puddle but didn't realise it was split-level. I took off from the first level at 70mph, landed on my front wheels and carried on. It was wonderful.

Have you ever had any points on your licence?

Once. I was driving to the Grand Prix at Silverstone in August 1980 and I got cross with two bikers in front of me, driving really slowly and having a chat. It was a Sunday, about 7:15 in the morning so I put my foot down and overtook them. I got a speeding ticket and a £25 fine.

What do you listen to on your car radio/cassette while driving?

I have got very catholic tastes so like almost anything. I usually listen to Radio 4 in the mornings and take book tapes for when I get tired of music. The autobiographies are good and you can rewind when your concentration lapses. It is amazing how quickly the journey passes when you are listening to them.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport what is the first thing you would do?

I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport, like two-wheelers, with the objective of raising the proportion of this type of travel from 20 to 25 per cent by the year 2000. This would require a review of road management, road pricing and transport investment proposals from local and national authorities to make the two-wheeler an accepted part of the transport infrastructure.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Peugeot adverts are good. I like the one with the little girl who runs out onto the road and I love the music. Whether they help to sell more cars I have no idea.

How did you first learn to drive?

With the British School of Motoring, mostly in Minis, and I passed my test first time. I took it in the days when you still had to do hand signals, which I hated. On the day of my test it was snowing and the examiner said because of the weather I wouldn't have to do hand signals. I am sure that is why I passed.

What was your first car?

A beige Morris Minor. I bought it with my fiancée after passing my test. When we split up he kept the car and I kept the ring.

What car do you drive now?

A black, N-registration BMW 3-Series.

Do you enjoy driving?

Thoroughly. Although it does sometimes depend on whether it is business or recreational. I like being in control of who gets in touch with me. I have a hands-free mobile phone in the car and because I do so much travelling I am almost always using it.

What is your dream car?

A 1970 Mercedes sports car, the one with the bubble on the top. That would be perfect.

What is your most hated car?

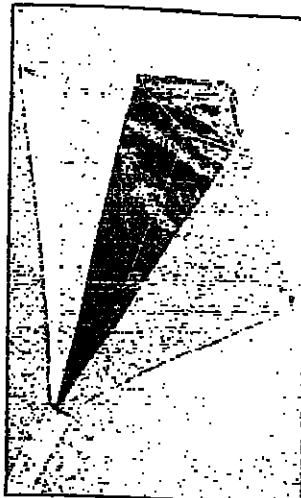
The Ford Cortina. I had one and it caused me so much trouble: almost everything went wrong with it. I finally got rid of it when it started wailing and sounded as though I had a Banshee under the bonnet.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Using the phone so much, but being irritated with other drivers who do it. If I have one other failing it is trying to get from A to B in the quickest time possible, so I have to be mindful of speed.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

SHOPPING

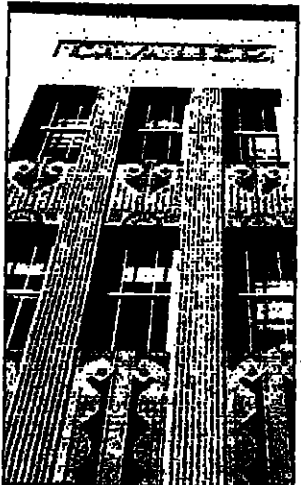


The power and the pleasure of flying a kite

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PLUS: Would you buy a tarantula? Page 4

TRAVEL

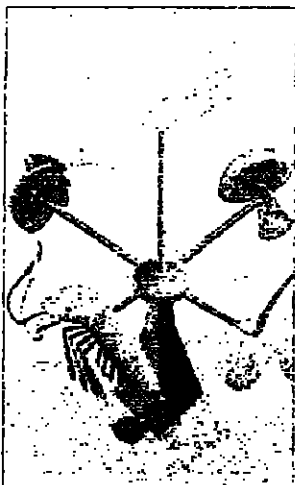


The Art Deco and other delights of Miami

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PLUS: The magic of Brazil, page 18

FOOD



Delicious free food in the country and at the seaside

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GOING OUT



Classic country gardens to visit this weekend

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WEEKEND

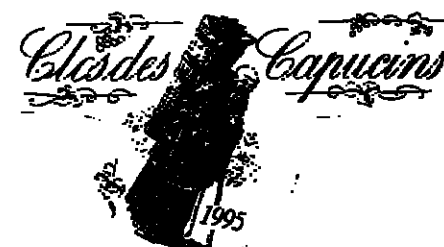
THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

LES GRANDES DAMES DU VIN



In a quiet corner of Alsace three powerful female noses control their own vineyard.

Kate Muir sniffed them out



In early evening the sun comes through the wooden blinds bathing the refectory table in stripes. At harvest time this table seats 30 pickers, mostly housewives enjoying a few weeks off in the vineyards. On those days sizeable country stews are served, with wine by the litre. Tonight, however, the fare is more elegant and the finest vintages are open on the table, proudly labelled "Colette Faller et ses filles".

This is one of the few vineyards in France run by a mother and her daughters. If Domaine Weinbach at Kayserburg in Alsace is not exactly a feminist vineyard, it is certainly a feminine one. Mme Faller, widow and matriarch of all she surveys, produces wines, the guides say, of such elegance and subtlety that they could not be wrought by the hand of man.

After long experience, Mme Faller and her daughters, Catherine and Laurence, know the proof is in the palate. They seat the photographer and me at the long table. Their assault on our tastebuds begins with a crisp '94 riesling accompanied by a white fillet of Emperor steamed with fresh ginger and leeks, then foie gras with a sweeter gewürztraminer. A muscat and a tokay appear with fresh Münster cheese with cumin, followed by melon sorbet ringed by raspberries.

Three generations of the Faller family line the long table, each tucking a time-honed nose into every glass, tasting, testing before they swallow. As guests, we lack the full-blown vocabulary of experts, but Laurence, at 29 a trained oenologist, describes the Riesling Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée Sainte Catherine 1995 as having "a rich, very ripe nose, with an aroma of mango, pineapple and peach".

"Mango," we say weakly. "Of course. Couldn't be anything else."

Then Mme Faller gets out her home-made eaux-de-vie, a series of sub-nuclear fruit brandies made, basically, from the scrapings at the bottom of the barrel — the skins of plums after the juice has gone, the remains of pears. They give an alcoholic kick with barely a memory of the fruit, which madame insists we guess, sipping many times.

Like the best French people, the Fallers know the importance of eating well and drinking well — that is, after all, their business. Their kitchen, in what used to be the old monastery of Clos des Capucins, is testament to that. In the twilight, aided by the tastings of probably six different wines, the old painted pans, the iron stove and the glowing wood of the table turn the room into a painting. "It looks like a Breughel or a Vermeer," muses Laurence. "Yes, but no one smoked in a Vermeer," her mother snaps.

We are on the territory of one tough cookie, a phrase for which there is no translation in France. When Mme Faller took over her husband Théo's successful business after his death in 1979, she found that her fellow wine-growers and merchants were "correct" in their behaviour towards her, but no more. It was a struggle to convince people that the wine was as good, if not better, than before. Although France has a tradition of widows taking over the estate, such as Veuve Clicquot, until recently

Continued on page 2, col 1

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Relax

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RAC

'Men smell white flowers in a wine; women detect eglantine or hawthorn'

Continued from page 1
grapes were very much male territory, like the rest of agriculture.

"I learnt everything from my husband, but I was also a good pupil," Mme Faller says later, driving like a maniac up twisting dirt roads through her vines, leaving a dust trail through the gewürztraminer and pinot gris. "I realised that the land here, and the varieties of grapes it will take, provide an extraordinary palette. There is no monotone here."

So little by little the wines, and their marketing, began to change. Catherine, 40, who has two sons, took over the commercial side of the business, and Laurence took a wine diploma after studying chemistry at university. (It seemed impolite, as well as scary, to ask the well-preserved Mme Faller her age.)

The Fallers created two special crus from late harvests, named after daughters and saints: Sainte Catherine and Laurence. Only the most brave vineyard owners can risk leaving the grapes on the vine into October until they are sweet, shrivelled and ripe-to-rotting.

This is Alsace as you have seen it only on Christmas cards: half-timbered houses with multicoloured window-boxes and doors hand-painted with flowers, winding streets, cute church towers, all nesting in green valleys among rolling vines and, of course, rolling parties of tourists with camcorders.

Still, no need to sniff at the tourists. Independent visitors buying wine after a tasting in the lace-tablecloth front parlour, under the old tiled stove, provide almost a third of the vineyard's takings. Much of the rest of the wine goes directly to restaurants or is exported to America, Japan, and Germany. Mme Faller has traded with Oddbins in Britain, "but they want such huge quantities we can rarely

6 The whole domain is reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as Miss Ellie

fulfil them", she says. The technique of making a few thousand bottles of each wine prevents mass-marketing.

Later, in the parlour—under wall lights made of plastic grapes and paintings of the seven deadly sins, including gluttony—we try six different wines from 1995, each utterly different. I have to admit that this is my first official experience of wine tasting, though not of drinking. I am not fully au fait with the correct manner of sniffing, sloshing, slurping and spitting.

Laurence, however, helps with words to describe the tokay '95, such as "a taste dense and rounded, a gentle finish". She explains that within only 60 acres, Domaine Weinbach has sunny south-facing hills, valley vineyards and soils from sandy to limestone, each patch of land, like the rest of Alsace, with its own flavours. This, coupled with three finely honed female palates, results in wines sought by the best restaurants in Paris: the Crillon, the Tour d'Argent and Guy Savoy among others.

Laurence says: "Women do have a different nose for wine. They might produce something more elegant, less heavy and overblown."

As *La Revue du Vin de France* put it: "Each wine has an individual character, colour, tone and style. The Faller ladies are veritable jewellers, cutters of diamonds which light up all the facets of the rieslings, gewürztraminers and tokays planted in the four corners of their domaine."

The whole domaine is oddly reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as the matriarchal Miss Ellie figure, prone to Texan-style jewellery and sequined denim skirts, and the daughters as Sue Ellen and Pammy. The only men in sight



Colette Faller (far left), with her two daughters, Laurence, left, and Catherine (both standing), and two visitors: their wines have become drier to reflect recent changes in taste away from sweet, rich ones

VINEYARDS FOR SALE

IF YOU are inspired to follow the Fallers' example, finding a suitable vineyard in Britain could be difficult. They come up for sale infrequently and are usually snapped up as soon as they appear, Cheryl Taylor writes.

There is more scope in France, where a small workable vineyard in a wine-growing area in the southwest can be picked up for £200,000, with a restored farmhouse and up to 22 acres of vines. Here are three examples of vineyards on the market:

■ FRANCE: Château les Crostes, Provence. Refurbished 18th-century château with a fully equipped vineyard and estate in 217 hectares (about 538 acres), including 52.53 hectares of Côtes de Provence vines, an hour's drive from Nice airport. The house has nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, four reception rooms, nursery, billiard room, kitchen, swimming pool, tennis court, orchard, olive grove, paddock wood and parkland. Winery

bottling room, storage, offices and staff accommodation. About £8.5 million.

■ GERMANY: the Ashrott Vineyards, Hockheim am Main. Commercial vineyard in 12 hectares (about 30 acres) in the famous Rheingau district. House with manager's accommodation, staff flat, tasting rooms and estate office. Traditional winery in 18th-century cellars, bottling/packing room, workshop and stores. About £1.8 million.

■ CORNWALL: Hybadore, Golant-by-Fowey. Award-winning vineyard in 15 acres, with main house (former dairy), self-contained cottage, modern winery, stable block and outbuildings. The main house has two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom and a first floor room (60ft x 17ft) with balcony and external staircase. Offers over £350,000. The agent to contact for all three vineyards is Knight Frank (0171-628 8171).



The award-winning 15-acre Hybadore vineyard at Golant-by-Fowey, Cornwall

are the vineyard workers. The most memorable example of new female blood spurting up an old vintage is the story of Nicole Barbe Clicquot-Ponsardin, who was widowed at 27 and took over her husband's champagne estate. She improved methods, inventing the process of shaking, which removes sediment and clarifies the champagne, and in 1814 expanded her market to the imperial court at St Petersburg. With a firm grasp of branding, she brought in the striking orange label which is still used today. Her understandably self-satis-

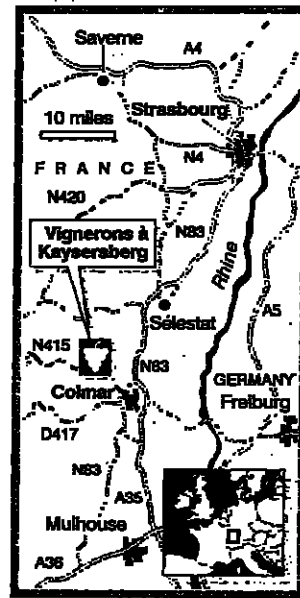
fied portrait is still found on publicity by the company. Such *grandes dames* of wine are becoming increasingly common in France. The domaine Georges Mugneret on the Côte d'Or is also run by a mother and two daughters, both of whom are oenologists. As one wine magazine noted: "Women have a more accurate palate. Is that because, in their childhood, they were close to their mothers and smelled those perfumes? One thing is sure: if a man recognises the scent of white flowers in a wine, a woman will be able to say if the flower is eglantine or hawthorn."

Few women buy vineyards. Most fall into the business by proximity. Christine Vallette has been running her father's vineyard at Château Troplong-Mondot in Bordeaux since 1981, when the manager retired. The family has worked the 30 hectares (about 74 acres) since the turn of the century, producing 130,000 bottles a year of what Mme Vallette calls "a powerful red, a good wine. We are aiming at a

great, classic Saint-Emilion". She believes the wine world is no cruefter to a woman than a man: "It would have been just as difficult to be a man at the beginning—you still have to make a name for yourself."

However, there were some advantages that came with her sex. "I was very young and a woman and they remembered me." Indeed, the Château Troplong-Mondot brochure includes a colour photograph of the proprietress looking windswept in her rose garden. "But if people say, 'It's a woman with green eyes,' that doesn't add up to much if the wine is no good."

Guides list the château among the top ten producers of Saint-Emilion in France. Mme Vallette says she has altered her family's entire business, from the marketing of the wine—with trendy black and white photographs of the vineyards and her ancestors on horseback—to the wine itself. "Perhaps people who liked the wine



under my parents may no longer find it to their taste," she shrugs.

Laurence Faller says their wines have changed, too. "Many taste drier than before; it's more popular. Sweet rich wine was more 1980s style."

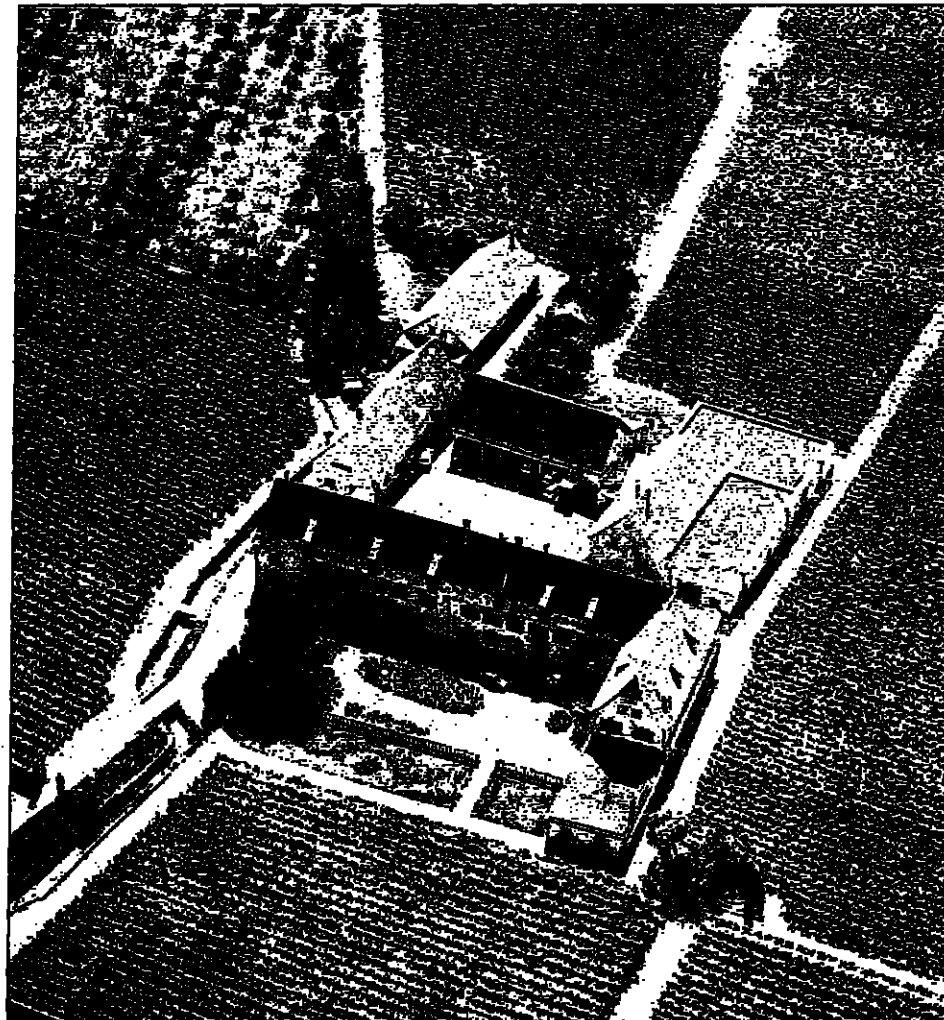
Such subtle alterations are possible once the methods of wine-making are made more precise. Laurence worked for a while at the huge Sonoma-Cutrer vineyards in California and learnt many of the latest techniques. The Domaine Weinbach has new stainless-steel wine presses and a pristine modern bottling and filtering plant, but the great oak barrels in the chilly 14C cellar are 80 years old and made of oak—a new wood might tarnish the taste of the wine.

The whole operation, although it does not say so on the bottles, is nearly organic. Neither chemicals nor yeasts are added to the wine: fermentation is entirely natural, and no insecticides are used on the vines. The grapes are picked by hand, just as they were when the first vines were planted here by the Capuchin monks in 890. The Fallers' finest bottles, the *Sélection de Grains Nobles* (made from grapes affected by noble rot), are picked grape by grape resulting in a few, extraordinary wines.

The slightly tipsy monks were run out by Revolutionaries in 1789 and the land was sold to private owners, eventually the Fallers in 1898.

Mme Faller, however, still has that sense of vocation about her work. "I didn't just marry a man," she says dramatically. "I married the cause of wine in Alsace."

Kate Muir on Paris, page 19



The Fallers's 60-acre Domaine Weinbach, where each patch of land has its own flavours

JANE MACQUITTIE GIVES HER VERDICT

My two favourite Alsace wine producers are Domaine Weinbach, run by Colette Faller and her two daughters, and Zind-Humbrecht run by Léonard Humbrecht and his son Olivier. The grape harvest from superbly sited vineyards is tiny at both properties, with yields about half the level of their competitors, so that their wines taste astonishingly rich, complex and concentrated compared with other vins d'Alsace. Once the grapes have been hand-harvested the Humbrechts' and Fallers' grapes continue to ferment and age in the most traditional manner possible, in the large old oak *foudres*, or vats. These were once the only vessels the Alsace region possessed but they have now been replaced elsewhere by stainless steel.

In Alsace, the patchwork plots of land, where different soils, microclimates and varieties flourish, mean that both families do all they can to keep each parcel of grapes separate, so that their quality can sing in your glass. To that end, the earth floor of the Humbrecht cellar heaves with every size and shape of vat imaginable, whereas the more



spacious and majestic vaulted cellars of the Fallers offer plenty of room for the neat soldier-like rows of 6ft-tall large oval vats resting on cobblestones. And that's where the similarities stop. The full, firm Faller wines, nurtured by women, are actually rather more masculine in style than those of the supremely aromatic, rich, floral, violet and rose-scented Zind-Humbrecht wines. The other great difference between the two is that a lot of the Humbrechts' 18,000-case production is sold in Britain, compared with only a few hundred cases of the Faller wines.

At present there are just two Faller wines available here, the 1994 Riesling Cuvée Sainte Catherine (Oddbins £15.99), whose rich, steely, powerfully verdant style is full of green nettle and lime-like fruit (yes, it does have a finish reminiscent of peaches and mangoes), and the 1994 Tokay Pinot Gris, *Réserve Particulière* (Oddbins £12.99), with its wonderful, intense, spicy, nutty fruit a great food wine with tremendous finesse.

Jane Macquitty's Drink column, Magazine, page 37

Wine Courses

10 Evenings, early Oct. - Dec. 1996

Learn to understand and fully appreciate wine with a professional Tasting Tutor. Introductory Courses in: Bordeaux • Twickenham (advanced course also at these venues) • Nottingham • Oxford • Southampton • Farnham

Cost: £150 Introductory Course; £280 Advanced Course. For our prospectus please call Phil Cooper at The Wine Education Service - 0181 896 0304.



Shirley Bond's cookbook is like a bible, with help for every day of your life. But disobey the commandments and all hell breaks loose

Thou shalt not cheat on the recipe

I don't know what you took for holiday reading this year — Cooper, Deighton, Higgins, Trollope? I shunned them all in favour of a gripping read that had me trembling at every turn of the page and held me until the very last word. It haunts me still and the urge to read it again from cover to cover is overwhelming. Nothing in the kitchen will ever be the same.

Written by Bond, Shirley Bond, this thriller bears the less than rousing title, *Home Measures*. But do not be fooled; it is a thriller of a read and, what's more, every word in it is true. I hope.

Like a bible, it has something to help you through every day of your life. For example, let us imagine that we are baking a Christmas cake. How much almond paste will we need, and how much royal icing with which to clothe it? Shirley Bond has the precise answer: two-and-a-quarter pounds of almond paste and two-and-a-half of royal icing.

You may know that already, but to novice cooks like me this sort of information is beyond price. As are the

exact proportions for building a wedding cake. In my nightmares I am asked to cook a three-tier wedding cake and spend the night before the nuptials working at it with an electric sander in order to give it a crafted rather than flung-together look. Well, if your bottom tier is 30.5cm, the middle 23cm and the top 15cm, your cake will look as though it has been designed by Christopher Wren himself.

Come Christmas, restless night hours will be averted by knowing in advance that to make 50 mince pies 6cm in diameter needs 1.5kg of home-made pastry and 1kg of mince-meat, and should I ever be made an honorary member of the WRVS, then I shall need to know that two pints of milk are required for every gallon of tea.

Do you ever look at a cake tin and wonder how big it is? Do you long to avoid those moments of deep despair when you pour your rich and luscious

cake mixture into the tin to find it only rises an inch up the sides, and you realise that after cooking you will need a pithier to extract it? Bond can help you.

She says: "Fill [the tin] to the very top with water, or to the height you want the finished cake to be. Tip the water into a measuring jug and read the capacity. Make one-and-a-half pounds of fruit cake mixture for every pint of water measured." Magic.

I assume she is right. It would be a cruel betrayal if she kidded us about the capacity of standard-sized pudding bowls or how many profiteroles in the kilogram of choux pastry (65g makes 20, apparently). Convincing though it all sounds, I

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

decided to test it and took as my starting point the hand-drawn wisdom that a successful Swiss roll can only be baked in a correctly sized Swiss roll tin. Too big a tin leaves an unrollable Swiss lump; too thick gives you indigestion because the middle will not be cooked when the outside is a nice shade of brown.

So, if you are using the standard recipe of 4oz flour, 4oz caster sugar and three eggs, do not dare attempt a Swiss roll unless the tin is 9in by 13in by 4in. I sent out for a new one for the occasion, noting how the family seem only too ready to undertake errands which involve leaving the house when I am at the stove.

According to the label on the new non-

stick, it was one-sixteenth of an inch shorter and three-sixteenths deeper than Shirley Bond insists. Surely, this could not matter?

I whisked the eggs and sugar till thick, foamy and pale yellow; then sieved the flour on to a plate.

Opinion seems to vary about the flour. Even the Aga cookbook writers, those Old Testament scribes of the home-comfort school of cookery, cannot decide whether to use plain or self-raising. I used the latter for the simple reason that there was none of the former, hoping that such serendipity may prove the basis of great cuisine, as in the sandwich.

I folded the flour into the whisked mixture, carefully so as not to release the air and, with my breath held, poured the mixture into the tin. It fitted. It really fitted. Neither too much, nor too little.

Good old Shirley. She now has my complete trust. When she says that 8oz of suet mixture makes 16 dumplings, I shall never doubt her.

I cooked my Swiss roll for ten minutes, and it was gloriously light and browned. It came out of the tin with no trouble despite enjoying the perfect fit, and then a fearful thought occurred. Would it roll? It would not. It went so far but then cracks appeared as deep as the bed of a Yorkshire reservoir in summer. I half expected to see a tiny environment secretary standing in the middle of it for a photo-opportunity.

Sadly, I let the sponge flop back, unrolled, I blame those extra three-sixteenths on the depth. I told you it was like a bible; disobey the commandments, put in an extra cubit of gopher-wood without divine authority, and all hell will break loose.

As for the Swiss unroll, I spread it thickly with double cream, sliced strawberries on top, cut it in half and made the best of a bad job. A sandwich.

Home Measures by Shirley Bond is published by Grub Street, £7.99.

CHOCOLATE BOX

DIABETIC chocolate is a great concept. As chocolate depends for its appeal on fat — cocoa solids and butter — and sugar, and the current thinking on sensible eating for diabetics is to cut the intake of both, the idea of a chocolate safe for diabetics is highly attractive. In various retailers and even chemists' shops you will see confectionery labelled as suitable for diabetics.

You might think that the British Diabetic Association would be happy to endorse it. You'd be wrong. "A waste of time," says an association spokeswoman. "It is up to four times as expensive as ordinary chocolate; often just as high in fat and calories; and the types of sweeteners used instead of sugar can have a laxative effect if you eat a lot at one go. It won't do you any harm, but it won't do you any good, either."

It seems that these products originally came onto the market when official thinking was that diabetics should have a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. Not now. High levels of fibre, low levels of fat — especially saturated fat — and the control of sugar intake, are the watchwords. "About 80 per cent of non-insulin dependent diabetics are overweight, and besides, foods high in fat are bad because of fat's role in heart disease," says a BDA dietician. It should be emphasised that every diabetic's dietary needs will be different, and one-to-one consultation is essential.

THE BDA leaflet, *Food & Diabetes — How to get it right*, contains the suggestion: "As long as your day-to-day eating is healthy and, on the whole, your blood glucose levels are good, the occasional celebration meal or little bit of chocolate will do you no harm. Enjoy it and carry on." The association's *Eating Well with Diabetes* has the admonition: "Avoid special diabetic products. They can be expensive and offer no special health benefit."

The best consolation for chocolate fans who are diagnosed as diabetic is along the lines of: "You can eat ordinary chocolate, but only occasionally, and only a little." So just one square of Valrhona for me, thanks.

TONY PATRICK

For more information, contact the British Diabetic Association (0171-323 1531; fax 0171-637 3644) at 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD. There is also a Carline, on 0171-636 6112, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Go wild for free

BACK FROM holiday in Devon and Wales, it struck me how much of a free open larder the country is and what little use we make of it. In Devon, I netted wriggling thumb-sized prawns, in Wales I picked pea-sized, sweet wild cherries, sharp blueberries and wild sorrel for salads.

Whether it is cockles from the Gower Peninsula or the Southampton Sound, marsh samphire from Norfolk, cob nuts from Kent, crab apples from the New Forest, damsons from Cumbria or chateaubriets from the Highlands, every area seems to have some wild food to offer. But blackberries apart, we seem reluctant to play the role of hunter-gatherer.

Why is this? Could it be that we are too busy? Or are we too nervous of being poisoned? If the latter is the case, then you can do no better than consult Roger Phillips's *Wild Food* (Macmillan, £12.99). A classic of its kind, there are helpful photographs to point you in the right direction.

Now the mushroom season has started, you should also get hold of a copy of Roger Phillips's *Mushrooms* (Macmillan £12.99). He may not tell you where the best spots are — no true mycologist ever would — but armed with his book you will be able to identify your pickings. Failing that, Valrhona & Crolla, 19 Elm Row, Edinburgh is running mushroom identification "surgeries" on September 2, 16 and 30 under Dr Watling of Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens. Ring 0131-556 6066 for details.

And if you need help finding the little blighters, the Tasty Mushroom Partnership is organising all-day forays from hotels, starting on September 2 in Derbyshire and continuing in Norfolk, Shropshire, Grampian and Hampshire, until mid-October. Contact Peter Jordan, Poppy Cottage, Station Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk PE31 8HA (01328 738841).

Beef on beef

I LOVE a joint of good roast beef but I've not been able to buy what I want recently. This is due to a curious anomaly. Beef from cattle more than 30 months old, you may remember, has been banned from entering the food chain. But why 30 months? It seems such an arbitrary figure, particularly as the experts now believe that cows don't develop BSE until at least 50 months old. It appears that, because supermarkets did not handle beef cuts and joints from cattle older than 30 months, this was the figure the Ministry of



The outlook is good: from prawns in Devon to crab apples in the New Forest and cob nuts in Kent, every area in Britain has a wealth of wild food waiting to be harvested

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) settled on.

However, Britain's finest beef comes from our traditional, native pure-breeds — the Herefords, Ruby Reds, Welsh Blacks, Galloways and Highland cattle. They are reared on grass, hay and silage, and allowed to develop and mature at their natural pace. This gives great depth and flavour to the meat. The cattle diet is about as wholesome as you can get, with no antibiotics or concentrates to boost their growth. It's a slow process where nothing is forced and, depending on where the cattle graze and at what time they are born, it means that they will not be ready for the table until way past 30 months, the slaughter-by date.

Peter Greig, of Pipers Farm, rears North Devons (Ruby Reds). He was so upset by the cut-off date that he joined forces with other farmers and lobbied MAFF for a Mature Beef Assurance Scheme, proposing standards that would guarantee a safe, quality beef. After months of negotiation,

MAFF has now decided to go ahead, but it has laid such stringent conditions that Mr Greig fears that few of our 2,000 traditional beef farmers will be able to comply. So we are back to square one and the

DIGEST



Henrietta Green

lovers of best British beef will still be starved of supplies.

If you want to know more about the scheme or to try Mr Greig's beef — from cattle under 30 months old, of course — contact him at Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Exeter, Devon EX15 1SD (01392 881380).

Cure all

IF, LIKE ME, you prefer kippers cured and smoked from locally landed fresh herrings — this is your opportunity. Most kippers on sale come from frozen herrings imported from Iceland. While there is nothing wrong with that — the fish are plump and juicy, and suffer no loss of flavour in being frozen — I prefer buying British fish.

Kippers have been smoked for generations at L. Robson of Craster, Northumberland. But nowadays far fewer British fish are landed as our stocks have never properly recovered from overfishing in the 1970s. The herring-for-kipper season on the North East coast used to last from mid-May through to September, now it runs from mid-July to August. After that, the fish start to spawn, reducing their oil content, making them unacceptable for a good kipper, and also relatively small.

At this time of year, L. Robson will mail-order kippers from locally landed her-

rings. Boxes start from 454g (£3.20 incl p&p), which should give you between 12 and 15 kippers. But hurry, stocks only last until the end of the month, then it is back to the Icelandic herring stock.

For more information, contact L. Robson, Haven Hill, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TR (01665 576223).

Hey pesto

IT SEEMS incredible that pesto — a glorious green concoction of basil, pine kernels, olive oil and parmesan cheese that cheers up any pasta — has been with us for such a short time. Apart from Italian specialist delis, it was first imported by the Italian manufacturer Sacia in 1989. In those days only 100,000 jars were sold, but now sales have rocketed to near the six million mark, and cost about £1.49 a jar.

Unlike the poor sun-dried tomato that has suffered the fickle fate of fashion, sales show no signs of falling. Even as I write, the basil is being

harvested in Liguria and, to give the sun-dried tomato a chance, Sacia has added it to make red pesto. Fashion freaks and Italians may not approve, but I rather like it.

It's available from all good supermarkets nationwide.

• Fiona Beckett is away

More food and drink in the Magazine

"Virtually the perfect summer book. No deck-chair will be complete without it" — *Independent*



LYNNE TRUSS Tennyson's Gift

"An enormously entertaining novel... a fast-moving farce which allows her sideswipes at the foibles of the famous" — *Sunday Telegraph*

"A comic novel of subtle distinction... a richly entertaining book, and at times a very moving one" — *The Times*

"A rollicking read. It is mischievous, light-hearted and fun" — *Literary Review*

"Wildly witty" — *Daily Mail*



On your skates for a tea party

SUMMER AFTERNOON TEA Serves four

Cucumber and prawn sandwiches
Cinnamon toast
Lemon syrup cake
Peaches and strawberries

Why has tea gone out of fashion? A big tea is the perfect meal before an evening out. It does not involve much food, and can be made in advance, which is the essence of easy entertaining. It can be expanded to feed any number of people, including greedy children. But the real joy of afternoon tea is the opportunity to indulge in buttered toast, little sandwiches and sweet, sticky cakes.

■ **Tart up bought cake**
Mix the juice of a lemon with 75g (3oz) caster sugar. Pour it over 300g (1lb 2oz) bought madeira cake, turning the cake so

FAST FOOD

the sides and top are covered in the sugar syrup.

■ **Make sandwiches**
Spread eight thin slices of white bread with a little cream cheese. Cover four slices with thin slices of cucumber and 100g (4oz) prawns. Season with salt and black pepper.

Put the other slices of bread on top. Cut the crusts off the sandwiches (it makes all the difference) and cut each sandwich into four triangles.

■ **Make cinnamon toast**
Toast four thin slices of white bread on one side under a grill. Spread them on the

untoasted side with a generous amount of butter and sprinkle with caster sugar and a large pinch of ground cinnamon over each one. Put back under the grill until the sugar melts to a nice buttery crust. Take care the edges of the bread do not burn. Cut into fingers.

■ **Prepare fruit**
Wash 300g (1lb 2oz) strawberries, but you do not need to hull them. Wash four peaches.

Serve tea

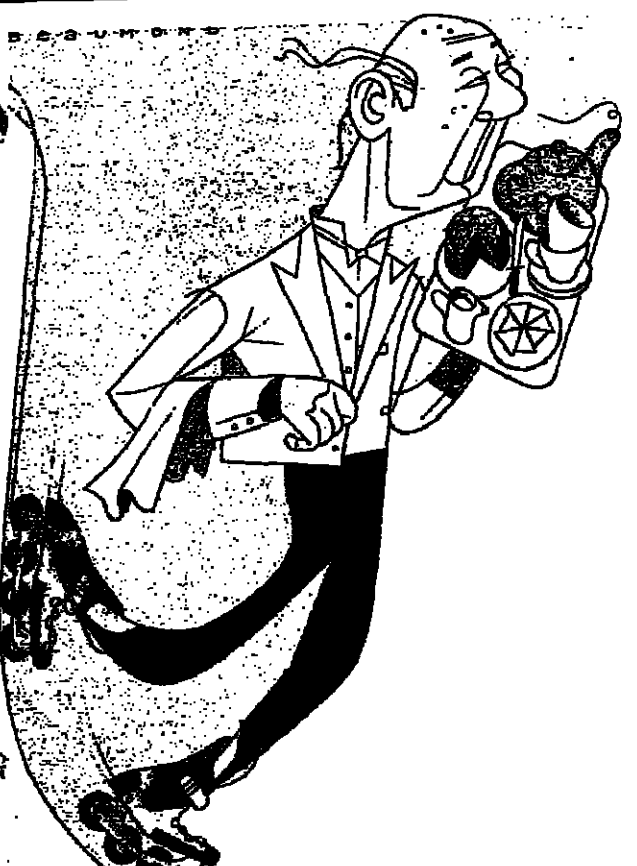
For some reason, tea does taste better in bone-china cups, so dig them out from the back of the cupboard. If you feel like a bit of Merchant-Ivory film-glamour, then find a table-cloth as well.

Make Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea in a teapot. Put all the food on plates and let everyone help themselves.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping List

Fruit	Dairy
1 lemon	30g (1oz) cream cheese
½ cucumber	milk for tea
500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries	30g (1oz) butter
4 peaches	
Store cupboard	Fish
75g (3oz) caster sugar	100g (4oz) cooked prawns
2½oz caster sugar	
1½oz ground cinnamon	Bakery
Earl grey or Darjeeling tea	300g (1lb 2oz) madeira cake
	12 thin slices white bread



THE TIMES

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PETS

A new puppy by any other name

Choosing what to call your pet can be hard work — and likely to cause a heated family debate or offend your best friends



So Puppy it is... at least until we can think of something better, if not more suitable. My parents are about to acquire a Labrador retriever bitch puppy and the entire family is embroiled in the great naming debate — and the unexpected reasons why our particular choices just won't do.

The rules are: the name must suit the large and dignified dog she will surely be, and each of the seven owners' somewhat eccentric requirements. Bearing in mind that four of the potential owners are boys with definite ideas on the subject, the battle will not be easily won by the others.

Lesson number one: naming a

dog after a person, even inadvertently, isn't the done thing: it will not be taken as a compliment. So my mother's first choices, Sophie and Zara, had to be ruled out after I reminded her that these are the names of two of my best friends, who are sisters. Along with their brother, Toby, they are already convinced that their parents named the three of them after dogs.

So what about Emma, my mother said. No, she's another friend. Fortunately a male point of view

was offered here: Emma would make her sound too much like a girl, said my father.

After moving away from the names of my friends, my mother progressed swiftly to a woodland theme. With a penchant for the weird at the best of times, she plumped for Fern. Or Bracken. Worse still, Pansy. These were soon dismissed by my brothers as too girly, and too embarrassing to call across a crowded beach. As were, thankfully, Poppy, Daisy and

Susie. These are names for little dogs, yappy dogs, not like our Puppy. So it had to be a name a man can shout in public, in front of his friends, without compromising himself. No, Daisy wouldn't do.

Well, how about a sporting name — like Cantona? According to the Kennel Club, at least four dogs have registered that name, including Eric the Highland terrier. But no, that wasn't right either. So, our choices went from bad to worse. Bess and Holly were thrown into

the ring, quickly followed by Magnolia (well, she does have a cream coat). But my mother was confidently proclaimed that the matter would be decided in the same way as when naming a baby. We'll know what to call her, when we see her, she said.

Hopefully this will provide the answer, because our other dog, Jo, still answers to Puppy after another naming dispute seven years ago.

After meeting "Puppy" my mother immediately decided on Ella, the Elephant, because of the newcomer's enormous feet.

Who do I now call Ella?

AMANDA LOOSE

Despite their creepy-crawliness and cannibalistic lifestyle, tarantulas are growing in popularity as pets



To many people, this Mexican Red Knee tarantula is far from fearsome and makes an ideal pet; it takes up minimum space and costs little to feed. However, buying one will set you back £90-£150

If you like hairy legs ...

To most of people, spiders are creatures that live in the garden shed or an undisturbed part of the house. It's a live-and-let-live sort of arrangement which breaks down when they trespass on our territory. Just when you thought it was safe to go into the bathroom, they come up through the plug-hole.

But to a dedicated few, spiders — or arachnids as they are correctly termed — are much-loved pets, and Dr Robert Bustard, a Perthshire-based scientist, says the popularity of the arachnid is growing.

Tarantulas have replaced stick insects as the convenience pets of the 1990s, says Dr Bustard, who is one of the country's leading tarantula breeders. They are easy to care for and require little space. They are also less boring to watch than stick insects.

Dogs and cats need constant attention but a tarantula's owner can go away for up to two weeks without worrying, so long as he or she leaves out food and water.

The name "tarantula" was originally given to the wolf spider but, according to London Zoo, the term has come to be used for many large spiders which originate from the tropical rainforests.

Tarantulas and other spiders are

classified as arachnids. There are at least 600 species of arachnid, says Dr Bustard, who believes that this number is just the tip of the iceberg, with many more species as yet undiscovered.

Ninety-five per cent of the spiders kept as pets in Britain are tarantulas. Because they are not dangerous, there is no special legislation governing their role as pets. (Certain more venomous arachnids, however, are subject to stringent regulations.)

The popularity of the tarantula is mainly due to its large size, says Dr Bustard, who specialises in the bigger varieties — not the sort of thing you would expect from a man who admits being phobic about spiders when growing up in Australia. As a boy he was told by his parents not to go near small spiders. The infamous black widow, one of the deadliest spiders in the world, is little bigger than the common British house spider. Tarantulas, by comparison, are pussy cats. But while you might happily

allow your cat to curl up in your lap, having your friendly tarantula about your person is a more risky business. Risky, that is, for the tarantula.

"The first thing I tell potential tarantula owners is not to handle them," says Ann Webb, the aptly named honorary secretary of the British Tarantula Society and author of *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*. "They are delicate creatures and you could kill them if handled without the greatest of care. The already fragile structure of the tarantula is even more vulnerable when it sheds its skin once a year," she says.

Contrary to popular belief, the tarantula is unlikely to kill a human. Although the tarantula's bite contains venom it is not enough to kill, unless you suffer an allergic reaction. Mrs Webb compares the bite with the sting of a bee or wasp.

Tarantulas are unlikely to bite anyway. "They are not particularly aggressive," she says. This lack of

aggression is because most pet tarantulas have been bred in captivity. Tarantulas are cannibals and are far more likely to direct whatever aggression they have at another of their own kind.

Anyone considering keeping them as pets should bear in mind that each tarantula has to be housed alone. The only time they can be put together is for mating — and even then they must be parted soon after.

Each tarantula must be kept in a terrarium, a glass container a little bigger than a large shoe box. The terrarium needs careful heating and part of it should be kept at around 75° while the rest is kept cooler, says Kirk Chapman, of the Coulsdon Pet Centre in Surrey, who started keeping tarantulas eight years ago. "When tarantulas are feeding they move to the warmer area," he says.

Food is the only expense a tarantula owner has once a terrar-

ium and its accompanying heat mat, which maintains temperature, have been bought. The tarantula is carnivorous and you will need to keep a steady food supply available for your exotic pet, but they do not need to eat every day.

Mr Chapman feeds his six tarantulas on live crickets, locusts and the occasional frozen pink mouse (a term for a baby mouse). One hundred crickets or locusts will set you back about £2; a pink mouse costs about 35p. Apparently, one of the attractions of owning a tarantula is watching it trap its prey when it feeds.

They also need water, Mr Chapman says, and it's best to put cottonwool in the dish to prevent the tarantula falling in and drowning. The terrarium should be mist-sprayed once a week to maintain the humidity.

The cost of buying a tarantula varies. A lot of people start off with a breed known as a Chile Rose, which cost about £15 each. Prices start to rise from there: a Mexican

Red Knee or a Bird Eater can set you back £90-£150.

Tarantulas, in common with all pets, should not be an impulse buy, Mrs Webb says, and you must have a home ready before you buy one. Its average lifespan is five years for about 15.

There is also the addictive aspect of keeping a tarantula to consider. While you might not fall in love with your creepy-crawly, you could, Dr Bustard warns, become enthralled to such a degree that one is not enough.

"People start with a single tarantula but soon buy more and more because they want one of every different type," he says.

BRENDAN MARTIN

For further information contact Ann Webb, of the British Tarantula Society, on 01923 856071. Her book, *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*, is published by TFH Publications, The Spinney, Parklands, Forest Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6AR (01705 268122), £12.95.

For London Zoo's leaflet, "Keeping a Spider", send an SAE with your cheque for 50p, made payable to the Zoological Society of London, to: The Education Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

Sky-high snack for anteaters

Feather Report

ON SULTRY days in late July and early August ants go on the spree. Thousands of winged males and females soar into the air to meet each other and mate. Afterward the males die, while the females who have mated successfully come back to earth, shuffle off their wings and go underground to lay their eggs. Both black garden ants and red meadow ants mate like this, sometimes on the same day.

But their merrymaking is often rudely interrupted. The other day I saw a flock of black-headed gulls climbing and twisting about in the sky in a most ungainly way. There were also many starlings zooming and gliding among them. All of them had abandoned their normal way of life to feast on one of these swarms of flying ants, and were doing it very successfully.

Birds on the ground also feed on the winged ants as they come out of their nests, and when they fall later back to earth. House sparrows and pied wagtails are quite adept at leaping into the air and catching an insect flying near them.

MANY species, in fact, do a bit of aerial catching when winged insects are abundant. I have seen bullfinches and chaffinches hover or flutter over a branch to get them, and in spring especially, when the first flies appear, willow warblers and chiffchaffs are always leaping up among the young leaves in pursuit of them.

I also saw a few house martins joining in the chase of the flying ants. Swallows generally hunt closer to the ground; however, I expect some came swooping along where the ants were taking off.

But it was too late for the swifts to enjoy the bonanza. They have had a disastrously rainy summer, which made it difficult for them to find enough aerial plankton to feed their young, and in many nests all the chicks died. The parents have given up, and migrated back to sunny Africa.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: Birds — watch out for young swallows and house martins gathering with adults on telephone wires. Twitters — black-winged pratincole at Monksie Country Park, Angus; little bittern at Fleet Pond, Hampshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.

PETER BROWN



A feast for black-headed gulls

The food to make a cat grin

A Vet Writes...

What is the best food for cats? There are raw meat advocates, chicken enthusiasts, and indulgent owners believing their cat is unique because it will eat only liver, salmon, lights, or best steak. They justify pandering to these feline whims because meat and fish are "natural" foods.

Cats are total carnivores, with precise dietary requirements. They must have ready-made vitamin A. Dogs and humans can turn carotene from vegetables into vitamin A, cats can't. They get it only from animal fat. The same considerations apply to some B vitamins and certain amino acids. Most species can convert one protein to another, cats can't. Their essential proteins must come from meat.

Our cats' wild ancestors caught their prey and ate it freshly killed — fur, feathers, a bit of bone, heart, liver, pieces of intestine, along with fat and muscle meat. This mixture

contains everything a cat needs. When your cat comes home with a pigeon, rabbit or mouse, and dismembers it on the kitchen floor, that's natural. It's messy but such mixed prey provides a perfect diet. So does good quality proprietary cat food, canned or dry, from one of the "big name" manufacturers. And this man-made mixture won't pass on disease. Cats get tapeworms

by eating mice. They catch, and transmit, toxoplasma when raw rat and vole are included in the *plat du jour*.

If your cat enjoys a piece of liver, raw cod or steamed Dover sole occasionally, it won't harm it. But living on liver alone can cause severe spinal trouble resulting from a deficiency of calcium and phosphorus and an excess of vitamin A — yes, too much

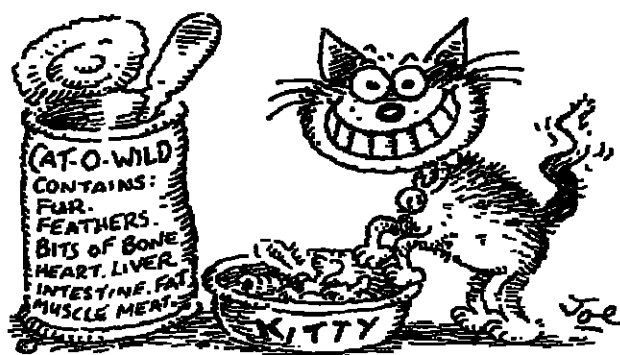
can be as bad as too little.

A dish of raw fish every day, and nothing else, leads to Chastek paralysis — a thiamin deficiency.

And what about milk? Cats enjoy it but their digestive enzymes don't deal well with lactose (milk sugar), and milk *ad lib* can cause chronic diarrhoea. Water is safer. Cats living on canned food, meat or fish do not drink much because the cans contain at least 75 per cent water, which is nearly all the fluid a cat needs. Dried food has less than 10 per cent water, so your cat has to drink to top up. This is critical: if it doesn't take this extra water the urine concentrates and crystals can form in the bladder causing cystitis. Painful for she-cats and more serious, even fatal, for toms.

If your cat has ever had bladder trouble, avoid dried foods, otherwise make certain there is plenty to drink.

JAMES ALLCOCK



Dogged determination

INCLUDED in the Spillers' ten-day Festival of Working Dogs starting today and running until Monday, August 26 at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, are sheepdog and gundog trials, obedience training and dog racing with greyhounds, whippets, lurchers, terriers and the barkless basenjis. For owners who keep themselves as fit as their pets there is the biathlon — an obstacle course which involves you and your dog clambering, crawling, jumping, running and coping with wet and muddy terrain. Information from freephone 0800 738 2273.

Prize carp

PETE WATERMAN, the pop producer, keeps koi carp at his home in Cheshire in an area of water about the size of four Olympic swimming pools. Not long ago he added to his collection with a prize specimen bought in Japan for £100,000. His ambition is to breed from this fish, and he may manage to recoup at least some of

PET NEWS

his outlay by selling the offspring at about £2,000 each, according to Andrew MacKinnon, writing on "Why Are Koi So Special?" in this month's *Pet Business News*.

Just joking

EXPECT a rash of cute pet books hitting the shelves well before Christmas. Coming soon: *The Awfully Good Cat Joke Book* by David Jacobs and illustrator Trevor Dunton (Metro, £4.99). Here is a sample:

How do you describe a cat doing nothing in particular?
Answer: Puss-footing around.
What describes a cat in a panic?
Answer: A cat flap.

Readers may think they can produce some better jokes than this. Samples sent to Pet News will be forwarded to the publishers.

Sound idea

CAN YOU name all the birds in your garden by their song only? *Garden Bird Sounds*, on cassette or CD, helps you do this, covering 70

birds. Cassette £6.99 plus £1.50 p&p, CD £10.99 plus £1.50 p&p. Details from WildSounds, Cross Street, Norfolk NR25 7KH (01263 741100).

Root cause

MORE THAN 85 per cent of dogs over four years old have periodontal disease, the most common cause of tooth-loss and bad breath, says Kelly Gardner in *Gamekeeper & Sporting Dog*. A booklet, *Dog Owners' Guide to Proper Dental Care*, costs £1.25 from Mailsales, PO Box 15, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6BQ.

Hot stuff

I AM indebted for the following to Stringer's Last Word, a jolly weekly column by Roy Stringer in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. He related the tale of a pigeon that set fire to a tree when it tried to line its nest with a burning cigarette end, and reported on research from Edinburgh University showing that horses that travel to races facing backwards perform better than those facing forwards. "Should we try the same experiment with our birds going to shows?" he asks.

JACK CROSSLEY

GARDENING

5

Raking up the past

A little detective work could unearth an old Victorian garden, says Stephen Anderton

Gardens do not have to run to acres to have historic bones. Lurking beneath the shrubberies of many a town or country garden can be features or plants of Victorian origin. Once recognised, they may well be worth preserving or developing.

One thinks of the life of a shrub as being 30-40 years at best. But many will last 100 years given sufficient rejuvenative gardening. More often than not, however, it is human hands, not old age, that finishes them off. We get weary of seeing tired old shrubs and prefer to start again rather than go in for pruning and rejuvenation. There is nothing wrong with that. It is the history of all fashion and the last craze is always more despised than something older still, of which we have no personal experience.

Occasionally, something particularly tough escapes both the spade and old age, and lingers quietly, a testament to a garden's origins, a little bit of Capability Smith or Jones. Look out for old trees of box, particularly at the edge of a shrubbery rather than the back. They may be a remnant of what was once an edging. Box is slow to develop heavy wood and if you find trunks of 4in thick or more you are dealing with plants of a considerable age.

Look out for the three Ls — spotted laurel, cherry laurel and Portugal laurel. Even trunks of Portugal laurel a foot across do not mean Victorian origin; they can make that size in 60-70 years. On the other hand, all three laurels seed freely and the presence of many may suggest a previous Victorian shrubbery of soot-resistant evergreens. Sometimes such plants will have layered themselves or fallen over, so look out for circular groups of the same plant with a stump at the centre.

The three laurels and rhododendrons were a staple of Victorian gardens, easy to grow, evergreen and with plenty of fruit and flower. Their indestructibility has allowed them to



Old iron rollers often survive

outlast many of the other evergreens planted alongside them. If you want to revive an evergreen shrubbery there is no need to stick solely with the survivors. Add some of the less persistent favourites, such as *Osmanthus decorus* for its sweetly-scented flowers, and *Mahonia aquifolium* and *Sarcococca* as a suckering edging. Golden yew and holly will also live things up, as will a rambling rose here and there.

Regular coppicing can lengthen the life of a tree or shrub by many times its usual span. Small-leaved limes can live for 1,200 years and philadelphus and deutzia — garden shrubs which you would expect to last 30-40 years — can last 100. Look for the woody, stooled bases. There may still be forgotten varieties hanging on in older gardens. Even herbaceous plants can linger a long time. Paeonies can last for generations.

Some of the woodier evergreen members of the lily family, such as *Ruscus aculeatus* (butcher's broom) and its relative *R. hypoglossum*, can sucker away in grim root-ridden



The rhododendron was a Victorian favourite. Its hardiness has made it outlast many other evergreens

shade almost forever — or at least until the trees die and conditions allow more rampant sun-loving species to smother them.

The hardware of Victorian and Edwardian gardens lingers more obviously. There are, for example, the rope-tile edgings in dark brown or grey glazed terracotta used to contain gravel or cinder paths. These are now being manufactured again and so the theme can be redeveloped around a garden. Iron garden rollers linger if only because they are too heavy to dispose of.

Victorian houses are often the greatest repositories of period hardware. How often do you see brick-stucco gateposts, and huge lime trees far too big for the house but now protected by urban legislation? And behind that, if all has not been cleared for car parking, mounded beds or shrubberies edged with rope tiles, or perhaps somewhere in the gravel or Tarmac a circular bed, which was filled with brightly coloured bedding 100 years ago? There may be "rockery" work, too. Not

necessarily chunks of real stone but these conglomerations of glass or coking slag, of which the Victorians were so fond. Perhaps, too, there may be remnants of coloured glass or white spar chips, once used as an

alternative or adjunct to bedding. None of this may be fit to save but it deserves investigation. And it is worth considering what kind of garden a house originally had, why it was chosen and how it worked with the house: formality with formality, or rustic with rustic. After that comes the pleasure of deciding how to incorporate those remnants into your new garden, if they deserve it.

Sometimes the most satisfying gardens are those where you can see the gradual development over time, where Smith has adapted Jones as Jones previously adapted Brown. Old bones may not be exciting in themselves but the bones of an old garden can be a good opportunity on which to develop a new garden after your own taste.

For further information, write to the Association of County Garden Truists, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP, enclosing an SAE, or contact the Garden History Society (0171 608 2409) at the same address.

Gardens to visit, page 13

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q Can you recommend an adhesive or some other means of repairing terracotta pots? — R. Trewellard, Penzance, Cornwall.

A There are so many good pots available that I would hesitate to repair old ones: they are never reliable again. Traditionally, the broken pieces were drilled and wired together. The best adhesives are the epoxy resin type, such as are used for repairing china. The adhesive will not last forever, because the pot is porous and water or salts will loosen the grip but it should last a few years. A combination of adhesive and wires will guard against sudden disintegration and further breakage.

Q I have several *Skimmia japonica* 'Nymans' and 'Robella' which are 11 years old and doing well but getting too big — about 40in high and 48in across. The gardening books say no pruning is needed. Can I reduce them and, if so, how and when? — Mrs R. Rayment, Twickenham, Middlesex.

A *Skimmia* are a tough, evergreen berrying bush but slow growing and easily shocked. They do not sprout so easily from old wood. If you can, nibble back and thin your bushes to the required size, cutting in spring just before growth starts. If you have to be more drastic, do it in stages, taking down a third of the branches each year, so that

the bushes are never leafless for long and thus seriously weakened.

Q My soil is sandy and, despite adding plenty of compost and watering during drought, roses do not do well. My favourite rose, 'Sutter's Gold', a deep gold flushed with pink, has survived, but I lost the others. Where can I buy more 'Sutter's Gold'? — Mrs E.W. Bathgate, Cupar, Fife.

A 'Sutter's Gold' is an upright growing hybrid tea rose and this group do not do well on sand. You might have more success on sand with rugosa roses, or hybrid musks, or Scotch briar roses (varieties of *R. pimpinellifolia*). You can buy 'Sutter's Gold' from rose specialists such as David Austin (£25 minimum charge) or Peter Beales (no minimum charge), or from smaller firms such as Burrows Roses, Meadow Croft, Spondon Road, Dale Abbey, Derby DE7 4PQ (£3 minimum charge) and Gandy's Roses, North Kilworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6HZ.

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9NN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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SHOPPING

7

Kite-flying is no longer child's play. Thanks to the latest stunt models it has taken off as a family pastime

Play the power game just by pulling a few strings



Children adore it and parents can hardly resist it either: not only does the air and exercise tame hyperactive youngsters, but it can also satisfy a teenager's need to look "cool".

Kite-flying can be peaceful and relaxing, or an adrenalin-soaked, physically exhausting affair. Unlike tennis, it needn't depend on strength and stamina, so father is not automatically star of the show.

Far from being child's play, kite-flying has become mainly an adult pastime, largely because of the advent of power-kiting. Big power kites have been around since the early 1980s but it's only now, in line with the fashion for adventure/exhilaration sports, that power-kiting has taken off in mass-market terms. (Power-kiting means forward propulsion using a kite, from roller-blading to kite-skiing on water or snow.)

Kite-bugging, using an agile three-wheeler steered with the feet for example, is a popular pastime in London on Blackheath or Hackney Marshes. It's cheaper and requires less room than sand-yachting.

For serious daredevils there's the dangerous kite-jumping: the kite catapults you up off the ground and you then glide or plummet back down. The world record jump is a nail-biting 32 metres (about 105ft) long at a height of about 12 metres (about 40ft).

Kites, invented in China about 3,000 years ago, have progressed further since the Kite Store opened in Covent Garden, London, in 1976. Gone are the days of the canvas and wood box kites. By the early 1990s steerable, acrobatic, two-line stunt kites were outselling their static, non-maneuvrable single-line counterparts by around 4:1.

Kites have turned high-tech, borrowing from other sports, such as sailing (adopting lightweight, non-porous ripstop nylon sails), archery (ultra-light carbon fibre frames) and fishing (high-performance Dyneema and Spectra

KITES IN FLIGHT

1 **WORLD'S APART BLAZER** (£9.99)
A traditional two-line stunt kite with long flowing tail. For stockists ring 0171-622 0171.

2 **WORLD'S APART VORTEX** (£35)
Intermediate level, from age 12-plus. For stockists ring 01604 864441.

3 **REVOLUTION 1.5** (£199.95)
Good for learning to fly quad-line. Available from the Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171-836 1866) and by mail order (p&p from £5).

4 **AIRCRAFT GYRO** (£19.99)
Small sport stunt kite. From age eight. For stockists ring 01604 864441.

5 **FLEXIFOIL SUPER 10** (£170)
For serious power kite fliers only. Not suitable for children under 14. For stockists ring 01353 723131.

6 **POWERHOUSE BLADE** (£89.95)
Delta-wing sport stunt kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

7 **THE GRIFFIN** (not shown, £65)
Full-size sport stunt kite. From age 10. For stockists ring 0117-823 2084.

8 **THE JAM SESSION** (not shown, £119)
Two-line trick kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

lines, derived from fishing twine). Today, even the most basic diamond-shaped kite, such as the best-selling Worlds Apart Blazer, comes with a ripstop nylon sail. It's a popular knockabout model for beginners, even if it looks old-fashioned compared with the Aircraft Gyro. The latter is a small version of the sport kites — those hang-glider lookalikes (also called delta-wing or swept-wing) that swooped on

to the scene in the early 1990s. At this kind of price you can get good quality for your money; the frame is of lightweight carbon fibre (today's preferred material, as opposed to the Blazer's fibreglass) and it's fast.

The Worlds Apart Vortex is a slightly larger version with rugged fixtures and attractive panelling. It has a broad wind range which means durability, high performance and crisp handling. It's also relatively forgiving and would suit lesser-skilled intermediates.

The Griffin by Martin Lester is a full-size, swept-wing sport stunt kite aimed at beginners and intermediates. It has a 5-20 mph wind range and is good for learning precision flying and some tricks. "The materials haven't moved on much in the last couple of years. You're still looking at ripstop nylon on carbon fibre," says Andy King, co-owner of the Kite Store. "The development lies in the public's more sophisticated tastes. They want power and speed, finesse and tricks."

In the same vein as power kites come the bigger sport kites, such as the Powerhouse Blade, which are alarmingly powerful. "A real head-banger's kite for those who want power, speed, exhilaration and life in the fast lane," Mr King says. Like a windsurfer, it has a highly engineered, battened sail shape, which makes maximum use of the wind and enables very fast turns. The Jam Session by HQ Invento is

flavour of the moment for finesse flying, another trend in the market. This involves stalling the kite and then doing tricks, such as axels (flipping the whole kite around). Just as people see the tennis stars at Wimbledon and want to copy their techniques, so kite-flying enthusiasts want to learn all the flips, cascades, under axels and over axels they've seen demonstrated at kite festivals.

The Flexifoil Super Ten is an adults-only power kite. Mr King irreverently refers to it as "the flying duver", but sells about 200 a year of them at £170 each. He says: "It doesn't matter that these large power kites have been around since the early 1980s, it's what people are doing with them that has made them so fashionable today."

Finally, for the ultimate in control (or the ultimate in confusion for two-line fliers who will have to unlearn two-line techniques) there are the four-line kites which can fly both backwards and forwards, stop dead or do propeller spins. The four-line Revolution 1.5 imported from Santiago, California, does not come cheap, but is excellent to learn on: not too fast, not too slow, and it has the broadest wind range around.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

■ Kite Society of Great Britain, PO Box 2274, Great Horkeley, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AY. Annual membership — £9, families £10. OAPs £7 — includes four copies of *The Kiteflier* magazine. The handbook lists kite specialist shops indicating those offering discounts of 5-10 per cent to members.

■ Chris Matheson, 172 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0JL (0171-923 0755). Private tuition costs £20 per hour; group tuition for fifteen people, £10 per person for a 2½-hour session. Mr Matheson is a kite designer who competed for three years at national level. His classes are for those with some knowledge of kite flying.

■ Richard Marsh of Trade-wind Kites in Reading (01734 568848) hosts the 1996 Phoenix Master Class series with Andrew Lomas. Each one-hour session costs £12.50 per flier, with a maximum of three pupils per instructor. All levels of flier are catered for.

■ Dodd Gross teaching videos are international best-sellers. *Flight School 2* teaches trick flying and *Flight School 3* advanced trick-flying (both £11.99). Widely available in kite shops. (Call 01225 466661 for local stockists.)

■ Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) runs kite weeks in the conservation area of Portugal's Algarve from August 29, September 5, 12, 19,

26 and October 3. The cost is a supplement of £50 per adult or £40 for under-16s, added to the basic self-catering holiday price of between £300-£350 per person (including flights, car hire, accommodation and insurance). The week includes three half-day guided kite sessions in groups of up to ten. Use of equipment is free during lessons. Individual two-hour lessons in specialist areas, such as power kiting, costs £10.

■ Major kite festivals: August 24-26, Portsmouth (contact Kite Society above); August 31-September 1, Canterbury (contact A. Sage, 01227 462786); September 7-8, Bristol (contact Avril Baker, 0117 9772002).

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PROPERTY

From holiday to second home

The weekend cottage can often become a useful source of income

Even on holiday, the British are attracted to "For Sale" signs. Estate agents' windows in pretty market towns or sunny seaside resorts throughout Britain possess the same appeal. For the idea of owning a holiday cottage is at its most appealing when families discover the near-perfect retreat from home and work.

Although far less daunting than moving house, buying a holiday home involves doing your homework. Vital considerations include choosing the right location at the right distance from home, finding the best way to finance the purchase, assessing whether the property can raise an income through letting and deciding whether you are going to become bored with holidays in the same place.

Ian and Pat Coupar, a chemical engineer and a teacher respectively, debated all those issues when they spotted a cottage for sale in Norfolk during a holiday.

They searched libraries and bookshops for advice and guidance on the pros and cons and, although there were books on buying abroad, there was nothing on a second UK home, Mr Coupar says.

They went ahead anyway, and have now written their own guide to the process. Chapter headings — on why buy, location, style and type, searching and financing, possible income, budget and management, and risks — cover the essential areas.

"One thing we hadn't really considered was how we were going to furnish the place," says Mr Coupar, the father of three teenage sons. "But in the end we were lucky because the house was already a holiday cottage and its owner asked if we were interested in buying the contents."

So for an extra £800, their three-bedroom cottage came fully furnished with everything from books and records to games and even an artificial Christmas tree.

That was two years ago and since



Pat and Ian Coupar outside their holiday cottage in Norfolk: "Always do your homework and take professional advice"

then the Coupars, who live two hours away in Bromley, Kent, and their friends and relatives have enjoyed dozens of weekends and longer holidays in the cottage.

Most holiday-home owners believe that a two-hour drive makes a weekend visit easy and a day-trip for inspection feasible. A much longer journey makes regular journeys more difficult and more expensive.

"Provided you do your homework and take professional advice, most of the risks can be limited or eradicated. We are glad we decided to follow our initial instincts and take the plunge," Mr Coupar says.

Buying a holiday home is often completed with the help of a second mortgage, more freely available now than some years ago. Around 50 building societies and other lenders offer mortgages for second homes, but many charge a higher interest rate if the property is let for commercial gain. Halifax Mortgage Services, a subsidiary of the Halifax building society, offers a Second Asset Mortgage at the same base rate as other home loans. Management consultant

Andy Macey found the mortgage ideal to finance his purchase of a three-bedroom period cottage in Westerham, Kent, half an hour from his home. He and his wife spend almost every weekend there.

"We bought a smaller place in the

Country Cottages (ECC) already promotes 2,800 properties in the UK — from a simple cottage in Devon without electricity to an eight-bedroom manor house with indoor swimming pool. Tim Fullam, ECC's marketing director, says Dorset, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire and south Cornwall are the most popular in the summer; in the winter it is the Cotswolds.

ECC, which produces an owners' guide setting out the required standard of accommodation, charges commission of 21.5 per cent of the gross rentals achieved, plus VAT.

Owning and letting a holiday property can be a tax-efficient investment, if the arrangements conform to the qualifying rules. The property must be in the UK; must be furnished, and the lettings must be made on a commercial basis, for a specified minimum period each year. It must be available to the public for letting for 140 days in a year, and it must achieve a minimum let of 70 days. If those conditions are met, any profits are regarded as earned income and interest on money bor-

rowed to buy the property can be set against income for tax purposes.

Chartered accountants Binder Hamlyn publish a *Live and Let* guide to taxation of both residential and holiday letting, but make it clear that it is a general guide which cannot take the place of specific professional advice.

One issue that cannot be solved by professionals is whether the novelty factor of the house and surrounding area will wear off. It is one thing to spend two weeks in an idyllic spot, but another for it to be a second home.

For Harold Smith, a semi-retired builders' merchant, the opposite is true. Four years ago he bought a derelict property on Ireland's Cork coast, which has become a retreat for him and his wife.

"I had spent a great deal of time in Ireland, on holiday and on business, before I saw this place," says Mr Smith, who lives in Lancashire. "It was affordable and in an unbeatable position." But it took almost two years before the rebuilt three-bedroom property was habitable.

"Having work done at a distance can be a problem," he says. The couple now either fly to Cork for a short stay or use the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire ferry to take the car for a longer holiday. "It does mean we rarely go anywhere else but we love it there. Ireland is now an extension of our lives."

"Period stone-built farmhouses are the most popular, usually with a minimum of an acre of land," estate agent Charles McCarthy, based in County Cork, says. "A good quality house will cost between £70,000 and £150,000 and the nearer the coast it is, the more expensive it will be."

LYNNE GREENWOOD

- A Guide to Buying a Holiday Cottage in England by Pat and Ian Coupar, from *Holiday Cottage*, PO Box 11, Faversham, Kent BR2 7RU (ES - 75p p.c.p.).
- Live and Let taxation guide from *Binder Hamlyn*, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BH (0171-466 6504).
- English Country Cottages, Grow Farm Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (01528 864292).
- In The Six, national property newspaper specialising in country homes, at Slaggyford, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 7NW (01434 381404).

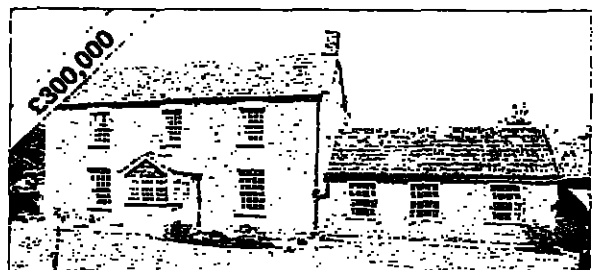
Next week: homes on the coast

FOR SALE

ABOUT £325,000



HAMPSHIRE
Pleasant House, High Street, Seabrook, Alton. Grade II listed 18th-century village house in a walled garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and scullery. Outbuildings and garaging. About £345,000 (Hamptons, 01420 88888).



DEVON
Hallowell Farm, Bere Ferrers. A 16th-century farmhouse in 30 acres of gardens and farmland, with 500 metres of water frontage. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. Self-contained two-bedroom cottage and two detached timber bungalows. About £300,000 (Fulfords, 01392 412007).



SOMERSET
Elm Tree Farm, Mark, Highbridge. A 19th-century house in 19 acres, with 12 loose boxes, feed room/tack room, horsebox garage, Dutch barn, raised outdoor school and five paddocks. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, sitting room, dining room, two kitchens. Self-contained one-bedroom annexe. About £300,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01392 215631).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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Bletchington

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2 bedrooms,
bathroom, large
sitting room with
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and garden.

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OXFORD - Harcourt Hill For sale or to let

With uninterrupted views over the Oxford Spine and Chilterns, a well-appointed house with paddocks, 5 beds, 2 dressing rms, 4 baths, shower rm, 2 recep, kit, b'fast rm, domestic offices, gymnasium/office, S/c 1 bed annexe, dble garage, gardens, grounds. About 4.45 ha (11 acres).

OXFORD: 01865 311522

CLAPHAM COMMON
NORTHIDE, SW4

With lovely views over the Common, an elegant listed house, beautifully modernised, near an interesting selection of shops and restaurants plus underground station.

3 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms,
3 receptions, kitchen,
flat with 2 rooms,
kitchen, shower rm,
large garden and garage.

Freehold

BATTERSEA:
0171-228 0174

HAMPSHIRE - Milford on Sea Price Guide: £295,000

A handsome Grade II listed 18th century village house in need of modernisation. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 recep, study, kit, fine recep hall, 2 attic rms, dble garage, workshop, games rm, gdn.

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

HAMPSHIRE
Bartley, Near Lyndhurst

A refurbished period farmhouse with outbuildings, garden and paddocks of about 0.8 ha (2 acres).

3 beds, bath, recep hall/family rm,
2 recep, b'fast rm,
kit, double garage,
stabling, manège.
Potential to extend subject to renewing previous consent.

LYMINGTON:
01590 677233

Samuel Beckett with a dash of Buster Keaton

LIKE Somerset Maugham's his stories are not, but James Kelman's 1987 collection, *Greyhound for Breakfast*, newly reissued by Minerva (£6.99, ISBN 0 7493 8616 9), is quite the most substantial in this batch of recent titles. For my money, the book continues to be, no doubt unintentionally, Kelman's best yet in the stakes for Parnassus. It is the observation, the humour and wit, the rhythms and humanity, the undocumentary imagination and linguistic daring — what? no safety net? — which make these 47 prose poems about everyday working-class life so enthralling. If you must have a

comparison, here is Samuel Beckett laced with Buster Keaton. I cannot muster as much enthusiasm for Kelman's friend and protégé, Agnes Owens, whose earlier book of stories, *Lean Tales*, was co-authored with him and Alasdair Gray. She shares the same vision as Gray and Kelman but, in her new collection, *People Like That* (Bloomsbury, £13.99, ISBN 0 7475 2522 6), her prose lacks poetry and an ability to use language to intensify experience. There is a fear of soaring. Which is a shame as Owens's reports on the elderly, the homeless and the drug-addicted are most compassionate.

Giles Gordon reviews short stories, from witty working-class observations to a *Woman's Hour* anniversary anthology

Liz Heron's first collection, *A Red River* (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 85381 809 0), at its best recalls Rose Tremain's marvellous "historical" stories although the writing is more pared down, more documentary. The title story, about an uprising against a British mining company in Spain near the end of the 19th century, cries out to be treated at novel length as the exploration of character here is rudimentary. The story at first seems to be about the

marriage between an Edinburgh man working for the company and his Spanish bride, but Heron is more interested in exploring social wrongs, which is her prerogative, than private lives. *Hot Chicken Wings* by Jyl Lynn Felman (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 86049 010 7) is winsomely embarrassing, and not only for the numerous, gushing acknowledgements and the appalling introduction. "The forbidden or what makes

me a Jewish lesbian writer". If she is happy being Jewish and lesbian, then I am happy for her, but this book, published in America in 1992, seems more a crusade (perhaps to convince herself?) than a work of art. The publisher Serpent's Tail frequently comes up with intelligent group anthologies of short stories. *back rubs* (£8.99, ISBN 1 85242 394 3) is an intriguing concept, a collection of new stories

by women celebrating change in women's lives. The subjects embraced including orgasm, death, puberty and separation. The authors include A.L. Kennedy, Janette Turner Hospital, Susan Hill and Erica Wagner.

Another "theme" collection is Virago's *Short Circuits* (£6.99, ISBN 1 85381 808 2), edited by Melanie Silgado, in which 12 new writers explore "uncomfortable territories".

The cumbrously entitled *Woman's Hour 50th Anniversary Short Story Collection*, published jointly by Penguin and BBC Books (£6.99, ISBN 0 14 025797 7), is

edited and introduced by Di Speirs, the programme's serials producer. Each of the 17 stories here — by the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Margaret Arwood, E. Annie Proulx and Jeanette Winterson — is a gem.

Finally, Clare Francis and Ondine Upton have put together *A Feast of Stories* (Pan, £5.99, ISBN 0 330 34492 7). The contributors include Douglas Adams, Jeffrey Archer, Iain Banks, Catherine Cookson, Jilly Cooper and Did. Francis — published in aid of the charity Action for ME. It is a thumping good read, if you like that sort of thing.

Peter Millar on Hammond Innes

Phew! what a scorcher

AT THE AGE of 83, the most amazing thing about Hammond Innes is that he is still turning them out. *Delta Connection* is his thirtieth work of fiction — there have also been two travel books and a history of the Conquistadors — and will doubtless sell as well as any of the others.



Innes: cliff-hanger

The hardback packaging, with a dramatic dust-cover illustration of a locomotive belching black smoke hurtling through a snowy mountain pass, just about sums it all up. This is rip-snorting adventure yarn stuff in the best *Boys' Own* tradition. True, Innes has brought the action bang up to date — well, relatively — setting the beginning of his tale in the mayhem of Romania when the Ceausescu's nasty little empire was crumbling bloodily around them. Our hero, Paul Cartwright, gets caught up in the murder of a Securitate man, the excuse to send him on a madcap escape via the Danube delta. Clearly it never

■ **DELTA CONNECTION**
By Hammond Innes
Macmillan £15.99
ISBN 0 333 63290 7

occurs to him that in the circumstances of the time — when Securitate men overnight became fair game for anyone with a grudge and a gun — he would have done just as well to stay put. Instead of which, however, he is off on the lam accompanied only by a wild woman with a hair lip and a Kalashnikov, who soon turns out to be the sister-by-adoption of an erotic dancer with whom Cartwright once had a one-night fling. But for the rest of their relationship it is gentlemen's rules and no sex, please, we're British.

Indeed British in a way they don't make 'em any more, even in Wilbur Smith novels. There is lots more of this at a pace so cracking there is little time for reflection, least of all on the part of our hero trekking up the northwest frontier, into the Pamirs and Tajikistan, being shot at into the bargain, all at the behest of some vaguely defined mining resources exploration company.

So just what is it in the end that brings together the woman with the hair lip, the dirty dancer, a quixotic French cameraman — *zut alors!* — and a group of troglodyte descendants of lost Vikings with a liking for high technology?

Who knows? And if you have got that far, who cares? You're probably out of breath anyway. Never fear, the octogenarian Hammond's payoff suggests a sequel. Phew! I wonder what he takes.



Marlene Dietrich photographed by Clarence Sinclair Bull with her cabochon emerald and diamond bracelets, from *Hollywood Jewels* by Penny Proddow, Debra Healy and Marion Fasel (Abradale Press, £17.95, ISBN 0 8109 8145 9)

The meaning of life

THREE AIDS widowers dine together every Saturday night in southern California. Apart from their bereavement they have nothing in common. Sonny Cevethas, beautiful and dispossessed, works as a waiter, sculpts his body in the gym and dreams of reincarnation. Dell Espinoza, a gardener and man of property, burns with a fury that is focused on a loathsome televangelist who publicly thanks God for AIDS as a way of ridding the earth of pervers. The leader of the three, older than the others and more direct in his unhappiness, is Steven Shaw.

■ **AFTERLIFE**
By Paul Monette
Abacus £6.99
ISBN 0 349 10772 6

All of them are HIV-positive. Into Steven's life comes Mark Inman, an important television executive who was once Victor's lover. Mark has sex with lots of men and fears emotional attachment even more than the plague. Steven falls in love with him.

Afterlife is about their struggle to find some meaning in a world where they and all their gay friends are dying or dead. What is the point of working



Monette: frank emotions

or trying to love — or even watering the garden — when you have only a year or two to live? Gradually each of the three widowers finds a way — a quite different way — of

dealing with the hopelessness. Towards the end of the novel, when Steven and Mark are in the cemetery after yet another funeral, Mark, thinking about a possible AIDS-less future, asks: "Will anyone understand what it was like?" If they read this often funny and extraordinarily moving novel, they might. It is frank about aspects of the gay male world that other people find so hard to understand: the cruising, the violence and the loveless coupling. But there is so much love in Steven and some of the other characters, and so much compassion, that in the end the reader is left only with an aching sadness.

KATE HATFIELD

So good it's criminal

I CANNOT understand why James Lee Burke has not attracted the British reader's excellence deserves. He is as good as Elmore Leonard and Charles Willeford at their best, which is the highest praise I can think of. His cop, Dave Robicheaux, Vietnam veteran, former alcoholic, a dignified, tormented outsider with a scarred past and anguish in his dreams, is the deepest, most fully developed character in American crime fiction. The dialogue crackles with vitality and realism. The plots are complex yet controlled; tension builds not with shock-bang crudity but in little subtle steps, hardly noticeable until a pulverising, shocking act takes place.

Above all, perhaps, Burke's effectiveness comes from his mastery of the social milieu in which Robicheaux operates. He works in New Orleans but his home and his soul are in the nearby Cajun swamplands, a dark and brooding part of the American South where race, poverty and revenge still dominate the passions of its inhabitants.

In *Cadillac Jukebox*, Aaron Crown, a poor-white former Klansman convicted, after more than 25 years, of killing a black civil rights leader in

■ **CADILLAC JUKEBOX**
By James Lee Burke
Orion £15.99
ISBN 0 7528 0452 9

the 1960s, suddenly starts proclaiming the innocence he never claimed at his trial. His attempts to convince Robicheaux are linked somehow with the campaign for State governor of local sleazebag Buford LaRose, whose provocatively sexy wife Karyn was once an unforgettable bedmate of Robicheaux's. The cop's reluctant involvement brings him into edgy contact with a vividly portrayed array of mobsters, drug-traders, prostitutes, drunks and general low-lifers. Burke's descriptions have that hint of surrealism — in the landscape, in the characters, in Robicheaux's thoughts — which enhance their impact from the merely powerful to the exceptional.

Burke's portrait of a stubborn, flawed but honest man trying to retain his dignity and his family when all around him are steeped in pessimism; corruption or plain inability to cope ranks with the best of American writing, never mind just American crime writing.

MARCEL BERLINS

TEENAGE FICTION

Lessons in the playground

TEMPTING fans from the unstoppably popular Point Horror series this summer are a welcome range of well-written thrillers. Halfway between farce and drama, *Egghead* by Steve May (Mammoth, £3.99, ISBN 0 749 7282 2) combines an atmosphere of creeping horror with the dynamics of the playground. Trying to impress the school gang, Billy drops an egg on the head of a holiday-maker. Not once, but twice. Maddened, Egghead wants revenge.

As Billy's fears increase, tension rises and the gang of 13 and 14-year-olds pick on him in a way that is worse than punching: "Every time they see you, they nudge each other and pretend they're going to laugh, but they're holding it in with their hands over their faces, and then, as soon as you move away,

they're howling with laughter behind your back." May — familiar to me as a challenging radio dramatist — has written a book of depth and understanding which is also a cracking read.

By coincidence, *World-Fater* by Robert Swindell (Corgi, £3.50, ISBN 0 4408 6349 X) is also concerned with eggs and, obliquely, with bullying. In this case, the egg comes in the form of a mysterious new planet which threatens the universe, baffles the scientists but is woefully dealt with by a tip-off from Orville, a diffident and unpopular boy. This is an ambitious thriller, involving foreign powers, kidnapping, space probes and the cultivation of eggs. It is surprising, considering that Orville continues to be bullied at school.

MAUREEN OWEN

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Four dozen free-range mysteries

NOT MANY of the people who love Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* know that she also wrote the short story on which Hitchcock's terrifying film *The Birds* was based. Carlton has now bought up the rights to 48 of her stories and will be making TV films of them. Many of the stories are thrillers, and her son, Kiti Browning, says "She always longed to be remembered as a

BOOK NEWS

writer of mystery and sometimes terror, rather than as a romantic novelist." Now she may be lucky.

■ The TLS is famous for its unusual correspondence, and the latest controversy is about when soldiers first marched in step. Some authors believe

that it was in about 1600, but John Keegan maintains in a letter that it was not until about 1750. Earlier attempts were abandoned because, says Keegan, marching in step "had to wait for engineered roads and purpose-built parade grounds". No more shuffling after that.

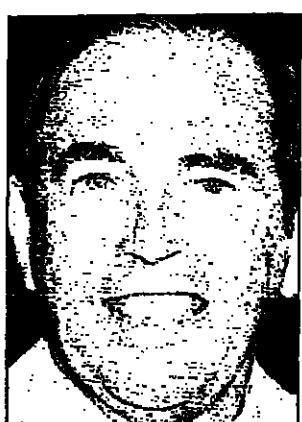
Wine, women and surgery

■ **THE DONOR**
By Christiana Barnard
Michael Joseph, £15.99
ISBN 0 7181 4152 0

THERE is something awfully familiar about Dr Rodney Barnes, the main character in Christiana Barnard's novel. For a start, he is an internationally famous South African heart-transplant surgeon — and there are not too many of those that spring to mind. He is also attractive and charismatic, with a penchant for fine wines and fast women. It is unwise to speculate how far such details are intended to be autobiographical.

The novel opens with our hero getting to grips with the everyday problems of heart-transplant surgery. When we first encounter Dr Barnes, he is experimenting with transplanting the hearts of recently executed criminals into his patients.

Gruesome as these passages are, they at least describe things within the realm of possibility; later episodes read like the more dubious kind of science fiction. Such shock-horror fantasies about medical science seem more appropriate to the tabloid press than to so eminent a practitioner as the author.



Barnard: medical fiction

■ **THE ACCOMPLICE**
By Elizabeth Irschick
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99
ISBN 0 340 64036 7

ZITA DAUNTSEY enjoys a pleasantly uneventful existence working as a solicitor in a small town in the Home Counties. Then the skeleton of a child is unearthed in the garden of a house owned by one of her clients — and suddenly the certainties of Zita's life are undermined.

As she tries to identify the corpse, and thus exonerate her elderly client, Jean Loftus, from suspicion of murder, she uncovers a whole range of

secrets. For Jean, it transpires, was formerly Yevgenia Chornoukaya — forced to leave Russia in the 1950s to escape the Stalinist purges. When Zita, a young Russian girl, arrives at Jean's house, claiming to be a distant relative, Jean sees her chance of making amends. But Xenia has secrets of her own...

■ **WHAT SHE WANTED**
By Nicky Singer
Orion, £9.99
ISBN 0 7 280 491 X

SUZANNAH McCALL is a successful barrister in her late thirties, whose private life, until the point the novel opens, has been restricted to a series of casual affairs and one more serious involvement with a married man. Then she meets Jem, an impoverished writer 12 years her junior, and finds out what it is like to be the object of a romantic fixation.

The moral of Nicky Singer's entertaining fable seems to be that the more of a "New Woman" you are, the less you are likely to be attracted to a "New Man". Whatever the truth of this, the novel is fluent, and offers some nicely ironic observations.

CHRISTINA KONING

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

		Last week	No. weeks
1	APPASSIONATA Jilly Cooper (Bantam)	£16.99	3 16
2	THE RUNAWAY JURY John Grisham (Century)	£12.99	1 12
3	POPCORN Ben Elton (Simon & Schuster)	£14.99	6 2
4	THE FOURTH ESTATE Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£16.99	2 9
5	WHEEL OF TIME BOOK 7: CROWN OF SWORDS Robert Jordan (Orbit)	£17.99	5 5
6	STAND BY, STAND BY Chris Ryan (Century)	£15.99	0 1
7	MICHELIN RED GUIDE: FRANCE 1996 Michelin	£14.50	0 1
8	EXCESSION Iain M. Banks (Orbit)	£15.99	0 7
9	KEEPER OF GENESIS Robert Bauval & Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	10 7
10	FEET OF CLAY Terry Pratchett (Gollancz)	£15.99	9 10

PAPERBACK

		Last week	No. weeks
1	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	0 1
2	GREEN MILE 5: NIGHT JOURNEY Stephen King (Penguin)	£1.99	1 2
3	HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo)	£5.99	3 18
4	THE GHOST ROAD Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	4 5
5	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£6.99	5 23
6	FROM POTTER'S FIELD Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£5.99	2 7
7	THE LOST WORLD Michael Crichton (Arrow)	£5.99	7 6
8	MEMNOCH THE DEVIL Anne Rice (Arrow)	£5.99	0 1
9	THE HORSE WHISPERER Nicholas Evans (Corgi)	£5.99	6 10
10	ECSTASY Irvine Welsh (Jonathan Cape)	£9.99	13 11
11	BELGARATH THE SORCERER David Eddings (HarperCollins)	£6.99	4 3
12	REGENERATION Pat Barker (Penguin)	£5.99	14 3
13	THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH Salman Rushdie (Vintage)	£6.99	11 6
14	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (Black Swan)	£6.99	15 22
15	OF LOVE AND OTHER DEMONS Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Penguin)	£5.99	16 6
16	INDEPENDENCE DAY Richard Ford (Havill)	£6.99	0 3
17	JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH Roald Dahl (Puffin)	£3.99	0 1
18	THE PILLARS OF HERCULES Paul Theroux (Penguin)	£6.99	0 4
19	INDEPENDENCE DAY Dean Devlin (Bantam)	£4.99	0 1
20	COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES John Page (HMSO)	£9.98	10 5

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Elizabeth Buchan on Tim Waterstone's moving but disappointing new novel about four men

On the trail of Nazi gold



Alex Benzie: an ambitious and complex first novel

THE YEAR'S MIDNIGHT

By Alex Benzie

Penguin, £7.99

ISBN 0 14 125130 8

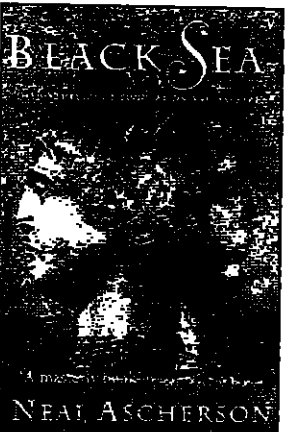
BY ANY reckoning, this great leviathan of a novel is an impressive achievement: for a first novel it is a remarkable one. Alex Benzie reveals his mastery as a storyteller and his narration of the individual stories of the inhabitants of a Scottish village resonates against the dilemmas of the human condition.

Benzie begins his novel in the Scottish village of Aberlevin in the late 18th century, where womanising, plain-speaking Macpherson is hanged for a crime he did not commit. The angry villagers climb up the village clocktower and smash the clock. One hundred years

later a shy young watchmender known as "Watchie" Leckie is summoned to the village to repair the clock and rewind the cogs of time.

As Watchie labours at fine-tuning the clock, the more nebulous forces of hypocrisy, bigotry and fear are at work in Aberlevin. They arrive in the mysteriously charismatic shape of the liar Jamie Watts; Jamie, with his conviction that he is pre-elected for salvation in the afterlife, is a creation from the dark tradition of James Hogg's *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* with its suggestion of supernatural forces at work behind human self-delusion.

Don't be put off by the time-defying 600 page length of *The Year's Midnight*: it is a magnificent novel.



BLACK SEA

By Neal Ascherson

Vintage, £7.99

ISBN 0 09 959371 8

THIS dense, frequently fascinating history of the Black Sea, where migrating peoples have crossed paths for millennia, flows from the pen of the former *Observer* foreign correspondent (now columnist for *The Independent on Sunday*). Thinking about barbarism, civilisation and nationalism, he compares a mongrel-Tatar prince who donned Greek robes to 18th-century half-cosmopolitan Scots chieftains. Although it is sometimes rambling, the book mingles erudite accounts of the ancient world with the author's first-hand experience of the 1990s and the USSR in upheaval.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MUMMY?

By Mavis Nicholson

Pimlico, £10

ISBN 0 71 267464 0

A RESISTANCE heroine, the future novelist Mary Wesley, a widow, a munitions worker, a barrage balloon operator, landgirls and a popular singer are among the gallery of women who reveal to Nicholson the enormous impact the Second World War had on their once ordinary lives. Each woman tells a tale of bravery and fear in a war which they had to help win. Despite the trials of the Blitz, rationing, and sad partings, Nicholson's women feel that the war allowed them opportunities and freedoms they had been denied.



THE NORMAL MAN

By Susie Boyt

Phoenix, £5.99

ISBN 1 85799 421 3

JANEY MARCH wants a normal man, someone she can bake steak and kidney pies for. After months of crash dieting and a roller coaster of disastrous relationships, an accident at a house-warming party brings down the whole house of cards and she relives her obsessions with men, her childhood, jam, and the death of her father Norman. Ten years ago, But Janey also meets a normal man at the party, a man who reads *Anna Karenina* to her in hospital. A novel of pain but also of self-mocking humour and reconciliation, and of finding someone who likes jam as much as she does.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Kate Bassett, Adam Schwarzman, Alison Burns, Amanda Loose, Guy Walters

AMERICAN STUDIES

By Mark Merlis

Fourth Estate, £6.99

ISBN 1 857 02413 3

SIXTY-SOMETHING-year-old Reeve, bashed up by a hustler and recovering in hospital, meditates on what seems the parallel ruin of his college mentor Tom Slater, driven to suicide in the McCarthy era 40 years before. With his wry, compassionate humour the novel gets together a complex of themes: the brutalising conformity that cements American society; the futility in a culture of alienation of Slater's ideals of love; and not least the emergence and (non-) acceptance of the homosexual identity. An exceptional first novel.

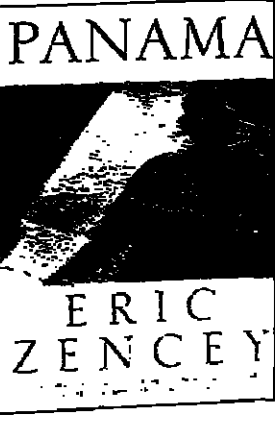
LET'S DANCE

By Frances Hegarty

Penguin, £5.99

ISBN 1 14 025335 1

AS Frances Hegarty, Frances Fyfield frees herself from the crime-mystery format to explore dark sides of human nature that are not necessarily criminal. Here, she gives an uncomfortable portrait of a mixed-up family coping with Alzheimer's disease. As Serena Burley veers between obscene anger and irresponsible gaiety, her daughter Isabel has to find a way to care for her. A gang of nasty burglars provides external menace but the real subject is the destructive element within.



PANAMA

By Eric Zency

Sceptre, £5.99

ISBN 0 340 65722 7

THIS IS a fine first novel, and better than that, a remarkable one. Ask most history professors to write a thriller set within their favourite time and place and you will get an undisciplined textbook, whereas Eric Zency's mystery set within 1890s Paris is both gripping and educational. Unsurprisingly, the reluctant hero is an American historian too, Henry Adams, who is drawn into a seedy Paris, reminiscent of Poe, in which the Panama Canal scandal is being hatched. Adams's exuberant appeal to both lovers of mystery and academics: a distinction revealed to be very slight indeed.

AT THE moments when it pauses for breath, this novel is very good: honest, serious and ambitious.

In England, a quartet of Holocaust survivors are pursuing very different lives. Amos Bronowski, an academic, marries the shy and awkward Miranda, an English teacher at a posh London girls' school, and is compiling a report on the death camps, which he plans to publish. Courtesy of his wife, Lewis Cohen has infiltrated himself into the powerful Jewish establishment and is, supposedly, at the pinnacle of a successful law career. Yet, there are

A PASSAGE OF LIVES

By Tim Waterstone

Headline Review, £16.99

ISBN 0 7472 1581 2

questions about his probity. A widower, Gareth Edel focuses his energies on his bookshop and on his work as a secret agent for the World Jewish Council. Finally, the brilliant and irretrievably damaged Mariss Steiner is living in a hovel where he is free to construct his fantasies, some of which are dangerous.

A terrible and common past provides a link, and the key, to the

psychology of the men who seek out or contrive situations which subtly reinforce a profound pessimism and guilt. They are also bound by a common interest in the fate of the millions stolen from the Jews by the Nazis, which are lying in secret Swiss bank accounts. Who is going to lay their hands on this wealth and for what purpose?

Tim Waterstone unravels a complex story in which the scrupulous and sanctified are as questionable as the greedy and unscrupulous. He writes densely and thoughtfully and, sometimes, movingly — his portrait

of a mother agonising over her dying child is unbearable — and in his construction of Miranda he demonstrates an admirable grasp of the female soul. What mars his achievements is the choppy structure — 76 chapters in 312 pages — with the result that the plot and the narrative are thrown from pillar to post. All novels have an internal rhythm to which the reader unconsciously responds, and the best have an intrinsic harmony with the development of character, theme and language. In this respect, *A Passage of Lives* is disappointing.



Waterstone: honest



Home Life and Holidays, from *The Cotswolds Life and Traditions* by June Lewis, which explores facets of life in the Cotswold Hills seen through the eyes of local people (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99, ISBN 0 297 83293 X)

Guys behaving badly

CONFESSIONS OF AN IVY LEAGUE BOOKIE

By Peter Alson

Fourth Estate, £7.99

ISBN 1 85702 497 4

FAST going nowhere as a writer, little further in a long-distance romance, and broke, thirty-something Harvard graduate Peter Alson reluctantly trades in his scruples for an illegal job as a Manhattan bookmaker. One Ivy League buddy-turned-bookie already drives a Saab convertible, complete with stylish broad in the passenger seat. So the risks look well worth a few sleepless nights wondering what a nice boy like him is doing in a job like this.

Anthony Holden puts money on a guaranteed success story

"Look who we got here," says Bob, the office wag, on Alson's arrival. "We got one guy, Spanky, who's a fat, smelly slob with a bad attitude. We got another, Michael, who's deeply depressed and doesn't know it. We got Monkey, a gangster who kills people. Bernie, a 50-year-old man who can't walk ten feet without stopping to catch his breath. And Pat, I don't even know what Pat's problem is because he's always so busy blaming it on everyone else. But hey, we're here with him."

But why, Alson keeps asking himself, is he now here with them? The answer is soon obvious to the reader of this racy, reckless memoir. The bookie's life is not just lucrative, it is fun. It is fun because it is dangerous.

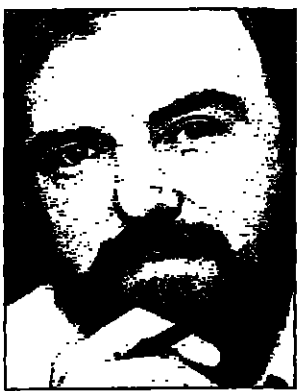
With the style and gusto of a 1990s Damon Runyan, Alson paints a vivid portrait of a shady New York demi-monde which he clearly enjoyed more than he cares to admit. His rogue's gallery of partners-in-crime step straight out of a latter-day *Guys and Dolls*. He

has a gambler's ear for sharp, witty dialogue, and a fanatic's zeal for the male bonding peculiar to men bent on risk. Whenever he leaves the office to chronicle his hopeless love life, not to mention his inner torment, the reader becomes a vicarious gambler, anxious to get back to the action.

After his nightmare comes true, and the law intervenes, Alson returns via a hilarious jailhouse denouement to the dreary old straight-and-narrow. He swaps the life of a bookie for — surprise, surprise — that of a writer writing about bookies. At which he is so good that it is almost a shame that he will no doubt, move on to other themes.

Adrian Mole's crusader

STEPHEN J. RIVELLE presents his text as a translation of an 11th-century "diary" kept by his ancestor, Roger L'Escrieur, a French nobleman from the Cevennes and one of the leaders of the First Crusade to Jerusalem. I puzzled over whether the whole thing was authentic, as it vigorously claims to be. Then I spotted that "e" on the end of the word "Booke" which is to any noun what fake veridigis is to ironwork.



Rivelle: ancient script

Rivelle tells us he was put onto the manuscript, which had been lying in the crypt of a church in the Cevennes for almost 1,000 years, by a lady in the public records office in Lyons. Somebody should interview that lady. She seems to crop up a lot in prefaces of one kind or another. I am sure Julian Barnes knows her, or her cousin in Rouen. On the flimsy and etymologically dodgy basis of the similarity of Rivelle's surname to Roger's soubriquet, the mayor of the village handed over this document, which Rivelle has translated into French would be hissing with that delightful

A BOOKE OF DAYS

By Stephen J. Rivelle

Macmillan, £16.99

ISBN 0 333 65747 0

ly snide part of speech, the subjunctive of implied disbelief (the imperfect come-off-it). The diary takes us from Montpellier all the way to Jerusalem and back. The accounts of battles are tedious, as accounts of battles almost always are, but the introspective passages are interesting, even if you sometimes feel that he has slipped

out of his tent for the night and Adrian Mole has taken up his pen on his behalf.

The entries are annotated with little interventions from the descendant-translator, which bring about as much authenticity to the text as that antique "e". Notes do furnish a text, though, don't they? Of a crucial letter received by Roger in Saint Symeon from his wife back in Provence, note 46 tells us, "The letter has obviously been lost". By this time the disappointment is keen. Jehanne's sexual insatiability prompted the penitent Roger's departure, and a brief word from her at this point might have been welcome. I must, too, acknowledge a debt to the "translator" of time "yesterday", and have been trying to work it into my conversation since — well, yesterday, actually. Had the book been shorter, I would have enjoyed it more, but it is certainly of interest, though, like the crusaders themselves, somewhat weighed down by clobber.

HELEN STEVENSON

Heart on a sleeve

THE LATE CHILD

By Larry McMurtry

Orion, £16.99

ISBN 0 75280 070 1

There are two late children, in fact. There is Eddie, five-year-old unplanned light in the life of Harmony, his forty-something mother. And there is Pepper, Harmony's older daughter, out of touch for years, now suddenly dead of Aids in New York.

Harmony is a former Las Vegas showgirl gone slightly, slowly, to seed. Once the most beautiful woman in town, photographed in the casinos with Elvis and Mr Sinatra, she now has only winsome, precocious Eddie to show for a lifetime of hopeless loves.

Faced, abruptly, with the news that she no longer has a daughter, she abandons the flimsy constants of her life and takes to the road. Accompanied by her mismatched sisters, she heads home to Oklahoma.

They lose their luggage in the Grand Canyon, check into a brothel in Jersey City, find a puppy, meet the President, wreck their car. Oklahoma brings a reckoning. Back in the bosom of their dysfunctional family, the sisters consider what's left of their lives. Vivid, sometimes moving, often funny, this is a sentimental journey to the heart of America. And the heart of America is where it's always been: worn proudly on America's sleeve.

IAN BRUNSKILL



A depiction of slave conditions in the 19th century

Dracula cloaked by anorak

CERTAIN fictional characters attract the anoraks. Their timetables and charts can always prove, for example, that Holmes was treated by Freud. No subsequent incarnation of *Dracula*, however, is a patch on the blood-letting that is Bram Stoker's one masterpiece. So strong was his conception that it traverses the novel's longeurs — and survives all the spin-offs, from Hammer movies to the recent, half-baked academic theory that the century's end and Aids explain the current penchant for vampirism.

In the late-1890s world of *Supping With Panthers*, Tom Holland goes much further, finding room not only for the Holmesian Dr Jack Elliot (they shared a tutor) but also Jack

SUPPING WITH PANTHERS

By Tom Holland

Little, Brown, £12.99

ISBN 0 316 87622 4

the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, Stoker himself and — somehow — Lord Byron. Told by many of the participants, including a budding actress and an ambitious politician, and deploying a panoply of letters, it is high entertainment with a dash of romance, which traverses London, from Harley Street to an East-End opium den.

All this has its origins in a bizarre, Haggardian ceremony on the Indian border, apparently reported in Colonel Sir William Moorfield's *With Rifles in the Raj*. The medical ramifications of this

tribal ritual are even worse than feared by Dr Elliot, whom Moorfield meets out there. Back in London, a terrible criminal pattern emerges under the microscope.

Needless to say, there is recourse to the contents of a Whitby graveyard. Shocking as the metropolitan revelations prove, they have an undue self-consciousness, whose absence from the long opening section made something genuinely chilling.

Meanwhile, the NHS could surely woo the Government by making blood available — at a price — to these helpless creatures. It would do wonders for the crime rate.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

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CHILDREN

LONDON

Carters Royal Berkshire Fair
Featuring the usual steam funfair, fireworks and rock 'n' roll dogdems.
Prory Park
Prory Road, N9 (01628 822 221). Today, 1-10.30pm, tomorrow, 1-9pm; phone for ticket price.

Hearts of Oak

Five-year-olds and above are invited to watch a puppet display served up in a *Splitting Image* style.
National Maritime Museum
Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today, tomorrow, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm; £5.50, cones £4.50, child £3.

Kids of the Wild West

Theatre performance unravelling the mysteries of time-travel for five to 12-year-olds.
Open Air Theatre
Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-496 2431). Today, 11.15am; £4.50.

Old Egg

Adapted from the classic Ugly Duckling tale and accompanied by original songs. For three to five-year-olds.
Polka Theatre for Children
The Broadway, SW19 (0181-543 4888). Today, 12.30pm and 2.30pm; £3.90.

Summer on the Square

Workshops, music, performances and theatre.
Peckham Square
Peckham High Street/Rye Lane, SE15 (0171-732 3232). Today, midday-4pm; free.

Sun, Sand and Sea

Exotic costumes feature in a carnival club course for children.
Chats Palace



Warwick Castle: birds of prey and 15th-century knights compete for attention during this weekend's activities for all the family

Brooksbys Walk, E9 (0181-533 0227). Today, 1-6pm; phone for details.

REGIONAL

BODELWYDDAN

High Jinks
Craft displays, games, sports drama and face painting for children of all ages.
Bodelwyddan Castle
Bodelwyddan (01745 584 563). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-midday, 12.30-2pm and 2.30-4pm; £1.25.

DOWNPATRICK

The Vikings
The life of northern Europe's

Dark Age conquerors with interactive activities and CD-Rom facilities for children.
Down County Museum
The Mall (01396 615 218). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm; free.

EDINBURGH

Greyfriars Bobby
Storytelling, puppet magic and singalong songs.
Netherbow Arts Centre
(Fringe Venue 30), High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 2pm; £3, cones £2.50.

Winnipeg the Pooh

Parable Puppet Theatre stages this classic tale of the honey-

loving bear.
Netherbow Arts Centre
High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 12.30pm; £3, cones £2.50.

LEEDS

Rhythms of the City
Highlights include Dangerous Doughnuts and the Bunni and Spring Emporium (today), plus tonight's salsa evening. Tomorrow's grand finale includes live music and the Natural Theatre Company. **Rhythms of the City Festival**, Various venues (0113-244 2111). Today, midday-late, ends tomorrow, midday-3.30pm; admission free.

NORWICH

Snow White and the Dwarfs
Adaptation of the classic fairytale for ages four to eight.
Norwich Puppet Theatre
St James's, Whitefriars (01603 629 921). Today, 2.30pm; £3.75.

WARWICK

Company Ecorcheur and Birds of Prey
Action-packed extravaganza with mounted knights from the 15th century, foot combats and battle drills.
Warwick Castle
(01926 495 421). Today, tomorrow, midday and 2.30pm; £5.25-£8.75.

COMEDY

LONDON

Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up
Tonight's double slot for Phil Davey, Paul Zennaro, John Moloney, Roger Monkhouse and Danny Morris.
Comedy Store
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10.

Comics on a Saturday Night

Featuring Justin Waite, Dave Thompson, Luis Alberto, Kit Nilson and Chris Hansford. Andy Fox MCs.
Fulmar and Firkin
Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0590). Tonight, 8.30pm; free.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH

Fringe Festival
Highlights include: Mel and Sue - Planet Pussycat.
The purring moggies offer 1990s style post-Ab-Fab humour.
Pleasance
The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 6.20pm; £8, cones £7.

Greg Proops

The resident American from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* fame.
Pleasance
The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, tomorrow, 8.15pm; £8.50, cones £7.50 (tonight), £7.50, cones £6.50 (tomorrow).

So You Think You're Funny

Sponsored by Channel 4, previous winners include Rhona Cameron and Phil Kay.
Gilded Balloon Theatre
Cowgate (0131-226 2151).



Edinburgh: Mel and Sue

Tonorrow, 10.45pm; £6, cones £5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL
Dylan Moran is the name on many comedy-lovers' lips this week as the Edinburgh Fringe Fest gets rolling and aficionados of stand-up whisper in corners about who might win the prestigious Perrier Award. Moran is louche, fashionably wasted-looking and reportedly charming the socks off the punters at the Pleasance. Returning on form after a year away, the young Irishman is rambling whimsically about his Catholic upbringing, hangovers and the differences between men and women - familiar territory maybe but sharply witty.

The Pleasance
Over the Road, The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 9.15pm.

POP

LONDON

Fun in the Sun Soca Day
Super Blue Krosfyah, Shadow, Tommy Joseph, Sprang-a-Lang.
Finsbury Park
N4 (0171-923 2555). Today, 2-10pm; £17.

Fun in the Sun

Reggae Day
Bunny Waller, Chaka Demus and Pliers, Spanner Banner, Augustus Pablo, Prince Lincoln and the Royal Rascals, Akabu.
Finsbury Park
N4 (0171-923 2555). Tomorrow, 2-10pm; £20.

REGIONAL

BARNSTAPLE

Arlington Folk Festival
John Renbourn and Wizz Jones, Parcel of Rogues, Signs of Life, Hearts of Oak, Bates Motel, Prairie Dogs.
Arlington Court
(01274 850 256). Today, midday-midnight; £5, under 14s free.

CHELMSFORD

Pulp, Supergrass, Elastica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman

Pulp headlines the V96 Festival, with a strong supporting bill.

Hylands Park
(01245 495 028). Today, midday; phone for availability.



Donington: Ozzy Osborne

Paul Weller, Lightning Seeds, Charlatans, Tricky, Orbital, Menswear, The Cardigans

Second day of V96, with 1960s-influenced sounds and adventurous dance acts.
Hylands Park
(01245 495 028). Tomorrow, midday; £25, phone for availability.

DONINGTON

Kiss, Ozzy Osborne, Sepultura, Dog Eat Dog, Biohazard
Annual heavy metal festival.
Donington Park
Castle Donington (0115 934 2044). Today, 10am; £27.

EXETER

Dodgy, Loop Guru, Catatonia, Dharma, Supernaturals, Candystins
The Birmingham pop trio headline their *Big Top* tour.
The Fairground Site
Matford (01392 425 309). Tomorrow, 3-10.30pm; £10-£13.

GUILDFORD

Guilford Folk and Blues Festival
Peter Green of Fleetwood Mac, Eddi Reader, Shane Macgowan and the Popes and Big Country.
Stoke Park
(01483 454 159). Today, tomorrow, midday; £27-£32, day ticket £17-£20.

WARRINGTON

Pulp, Supergrass, Elastica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman
See Chelmsford.

Victoria Park

(0115-934 2000). Tomorrow, midday; £25.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

SUMMER PARTY
Newcastle Arena's multi-art bill features some of the top contenders for the current pocket money vote. Bill-toppers East 17 will put across their pretty tunes and pale-faced raps with plenty of East End attitude, while local lads Ant and Dec will just grin relentlessly, do silly dances and hope no-one can tell the difference. Upside Down and current chart-toppers, the Spice Girls, should manage to be both banal and fascinating at the same time, and relative veteran Cathy Dennis, a clever songwriter, may run rings around them all.

ALAN JACKSON
Newcastle Arena
Neville Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (0191-401 8000). Today, 5pm; £9.

FAIR

LONDON

Streets of London Festival
Part of the annual street theatre fest, today's highlights include performances by the Beetoots, Heir of Insanity, Dodgy Clutch, plus the Whalley Range All Stars.
Streets of London Festival Information
Various Venues, Canary Wharf, E14 (01273 821 588). Today, phone for performance times; free.

West London Antiques Fair

Wide display of decorative items, rare antiques and other collectables.
Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Today, ends tomorrow, 11am-6pm; free.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH International, Fringe and Film Festivals
The 50th annual Edinburgh Festival is now in full swing, featuring theatre, comedy, music, dance, opera and visual art events.
Various venues
International festival (0131-225 5756; fringe festival, 0131-226 5257/5259; film festival 0131-228 4051).

Market Bosworth: Joust and Battle Re-enactment
Experience the past with this re-creation of a medieval battle, plus Morris men, live music and jousting.
Bosworth Battlefield
(01455 290 429). Tomorrow, 1pm; £4, cones £2, free for under fives.

MILFORD

Puchis Festival
Spectacular colour blooming in a regal setting.
Shugborough
near Stafford (01889 881 388). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3, cones £2.50, child £1.

ROSS-ON-WYE

Ross-on-Wye International Festival
First year for the global-themed fest, featuring dance, theatre and world music.
Information, various venues
(01491 821 299). Today

and tomorrow, times vary; prices vary; phone for details.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Black Country Film Festival Exhibition
Part of the Black Country film series, featuring a collection of cinematic skills.
Wolverhampton Light House
Fryer Street (01902 716 055). Today, tomorrow, 10am-9pm; free.

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE CROSSING GUARD (15)
Grieving father (Jack Nicholson) plots revenge for his daughter's death. Portentous drama from writer-director Sean Penn.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

HUNGER ARTIST
Bernard Rudden's intense 45-minute film, inspired by Kafka, plus two other British shorts.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

LAST DANCE (18)
Sharon Stone sits on Death Row, lawyer Rob Morrow wants to save her. Earrest but perfunctory drama from Bruce Beresford.
Odeons: Haymarket (01426-915 353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Virgin Cinema** (0171-352 5096)

NICK OF TIME
Christopher Walken forces Johnny Depp to kill the Governor of California. Passable time waster, directed by John Badham.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

CURRENT

♦ **THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U)**
Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse and perversely successful mix of the cuddly and downright. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise.
MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

GEORGE BROWN
ABC Pantons Street (0171-930 0631) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1577) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

♦ **THE STUPIDS (PG)**
Mirthless comedy about America's stupidest family. With Tom Arnold and Jessica Lundy. Director, John Landis.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574)

♦ **TWISTER (PG)**
Cardboard characters chase tornadoes. Great special effects, but repetition softens the impact.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** (0990 888990) **MGM Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-721 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0990 888990) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031)



The Secret of Roan Inish

CLASSICAL

LONDON

BBC Symphony Orchestra/Beloblavsek
Mozart's final Piano Concerto performed by Richard Goode, Janáček's stirring *Sinfonietta* plus choral works by Dvořák and Martinů.
Albert Hall
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

Clod Ensemble
Rich collection of chamber music from the 20th century, including *Dumbarton Oaks* by Stravinsky.
Battersea Arts Centre
Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 8pm; £7.50, cones £5.

♦ **JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (U)**
Mistreated James finds his feet in a peach voyaging across the Atlantic. Excellent animated version of Roald Dahl's book.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Gate** (0171-727 4043) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **West End** (01426-915 574) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

CRITIC'S CHOICE
THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH (PG)
The writer-director John Sayles is usually found delving into American history or contemporary urban lives. Here he trains his curious eye on a Celtic folk tale about Selkies (legendary creatures, half-seal, half-human). Filmed with a realistic slant off the coast of Ireland. Not quite for children, nor hard-hearted adults; but this a magical experience.

GEORGE BROWN
ABC Pantons Street (0171-930 0631) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Virgin Haymarket** (0171-839 1577) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

First Act Opera International
The Brandenburg Concert Orchestra performs a series of Baroque opera classics.
Chiswick House
Burlington Lane (0181-577 6969). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, cones £7.50.

London Concertant/Grist
Series of Baroque classics.
St James's Church, Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£12.

New Chamber Opera/Burden
Music last performed during the 17th century, including works by Stradella and Pasquali.
Queen Elizabeth Hall
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 6.30pm; £6.

New London Consort/Pickett
Pilgrim songs and dances from medieval times.
Queen Elizabeth Hall
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £7 and £10.

Oslo Philharmonic/Jansons
Songs by Grieg performed by Barbara Bonney with Mahler's Fifth Symphony.
Albert Hall
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4-£22.

Royal Philharmonic/Sutherland
Featuring Elgar's Symphony No. 1.
Kenwood
Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50, cones £8.50.

REGIONAL

DARTINGTON

Kan Hu/Nigel Hutchinson
Mozart's and Schumann's violin sonatas, plus a Schubert Sonatina.
Great Hall
(01803 863 073). Tomorrow, 8.15pm; £7 and £10.

EDINBURGH

Baroque Concert
The Philomusica of Edinburgh performs Vivaldi, Telemann and Mozart.
St John's Church Hall
West End, Princes Street (0131-556 0492). Tonight, 8pm; £6, cones £3.

Biwa, Japanese Late

Silvain Kyokurai Guignard performs ethereal ballads from Japan.
Randolph Studio, Institut Francais d'Osse
Randolph Crescent (0131-225 5366). Tonight, 4.30pm; £5, cones £4.50.

Burns Song

The soprano Mhairi Lawson performs various works by Schumann and Berg.
Festival Theatre
Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5-£16.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

NEW YORK CALLING
Veteran maestro Kurt Masur has given the New York Philharmonic a new lustre in the great romantic masterpieces, as the orchestra will doubtless demonstrate at the Edinburgh Festival this weekend. Tonight a solo American work, Ned Rorem's *Cor Anglais* Concerto, is sandwiched between Strauss and Beethoven. Tomorrow evening, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* suite is the prelude to Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Although not very adventurous, it will probably be magnificent.

RICHARD MORRISON
Usher Hall
Lothian Road, Edinburgh (0131-225 5756). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; £5-£27.50.

Scottish Chamber Choir
Recital of French choral and organ music, featuring works by Debussy, Faure and Messiaen.
Old St Paul's Church and Hall
Jeffrey Street (0131-557 6969). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6, cones £4.

Scottish Fiddle Music
The fiddlers include Aly Bain and Alasdair Fraser.
Greyfriars Kirk
Greyfriars Place (0131-225 8839). Tonight, 10.30pm; £10.

Thomas Zehetmair
Heinrich Schiff, Tili Fellner Beethoven's and Webern's cello and piano and violin and piano works, plus Schubert's B flat Trio.
Queen's Hall
Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today, 11am; £4-£16.

SILSOE

English Sinfonia/Ingle's Popular classics amid Last Night of the Proms ambience.
Wrest Park
(0171-413 1443). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £13, cones £10.50.

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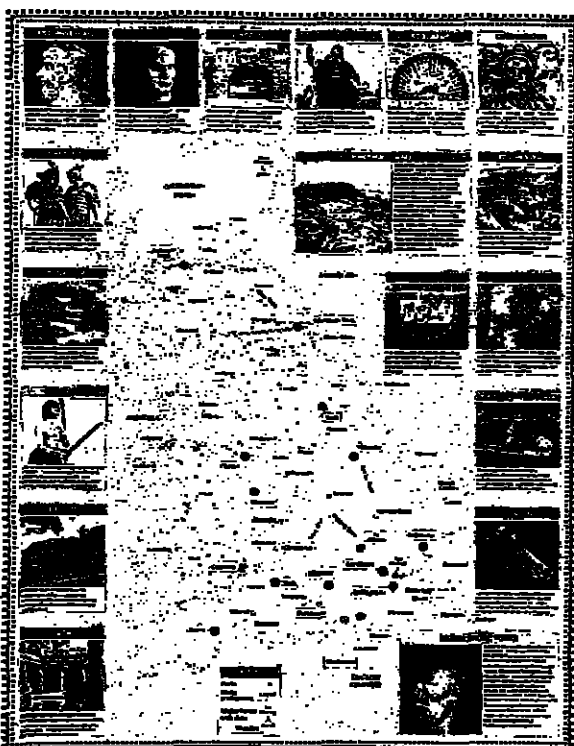
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La Bohème
Puccini's classic opera is staged outdoors.
Bramall Hall,
(0161-485 3708). Tonight,
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Broomhill Opera stages
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Broomhill Road,
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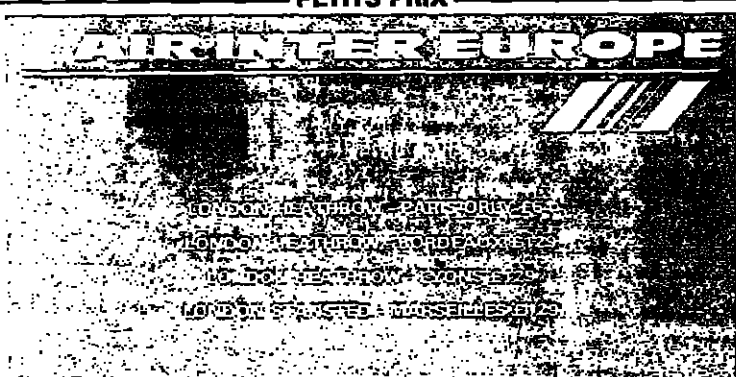
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Miami: From dazzling 1930s Art Deco hotels and the good life to the wildlife of the mysterious Everglades

The lasting art and soul of the Sunshine state

The preconceived image I had of Miami was not an attractive one: it was a place where the super-rich went to die, and where tourists ran a risk of dying. It would be full of leathery matrons in rhinestone sunglasses, silicone-breasted starlets, and drug-dealers. It would be vulgar, expensive and too hot.

The Park Central Hotel on Ocean Drive proved to be none of these things. Despite its location overlooking the beach in the Art Deco district, its prices were relatively modest, with rooms starting at £43 per person for a minimum of three nights, rising to about £103 for an ocean-front suite. Built in 1937 and sympathetically restored, the hotel retains an atmosphere of late 1930s glamour, with its whirling ceiling fans, monochrome furnishings and piano bar, where you can sip your Margarita and feel like an extra in a Bogart movie.

Appropriately, the pavement café, which doubles as the hotel's restaurant, is called Casablanca. Here, you can linger over your cappuccino and croissants while enjoying the view of swaying palm trees, cruising convertibles and lissom beauties flashing

by on-line roller skates. After a late brunch of French toast and maple syrup, we strolled along Ocean Drive in the warm sunshine, looking at the shops, the people and, above all, the architecture. Every one of the hotels in this half-mile stretch of South Beach is an Art Deco gem, whose distinctive four-storey structures with their "eyebrow" balconies, steel-framed windows and Egyptian architraves have been enhanced, since the early 1980s, by washes of pastel lemon, pistachio, pink and blue.

One evening, after dinner at Les Deux Fontaines on Ocean Drive, where a live band played atmospheric blues in the restaurant's open-air courtyard, we dropped in at Mangos, a club specialising in salsa and merengue, where the dancing was still going strong at 2am.

Next day was devoted to shopping. We started on Lincoln Road, whose attractively off-beat mix of clothes shops, theatres and restaurants is augmented on Sunday by Camden Market-style antique stalls selling everything from 1950s sunglasses to fake leopard-skin coats. Swimwear is relatively cheap here, though the gold lamé one-piece I had

set my heart on cost \$100, plus tax. I settled for a skimpy T-shirt at £26.

Later, we took a cab to Cocowalk, an open air shopping complex in Coconut Grove, where we browsed around shops selling jewellery, shoes and yet more swimwear before going for lunch at the Café Tu Tu Tango, a tapas bar overlooking the mall, where the small but delicious portions of pizza, risotto and quesadillas soon added up to a full stomach.

There was time for more shopping in Espanola Way, where you can buy hand-rolled Cuban cigars in Bu-Balu, which also sells Cuba Libre mugs and T-shirts, and tapes of Cuban music.

Miami is a very Latin American city. Little Havana, across the bay from South Beach, is an enclave of Cuban restaurants and nightclubs playing intoxicatingly danceable music; to take a walk along 8th Street, or Calle Ocho, is to find yourself in a different kind of America. Its cultural eclecticism is one of the city's appealing features: it seems to be an intersection of North and South, and of Old World and New.

Another night, we drove along the MacArthur Causeway to Le Festival restaurant in the upmarket district of Coral Gables, which was like a little bit of Paris. The restaurant has recently been awarded its "five diamonds", and the food was as superb.

Spending a day at the beach is the city's quintessential experience. We chose the Sonesta Beach Resort, on Key Biscayne, a short drive from the city centre across the Rickenbacker Causeway. This private beach, attached to the luxury hotel of the same name, has everything you could wish for: white sand, blue sea, palm trees and an outdoor bar serving planter's punch and strawberry daiquiris.

For the more energetic, there is an Olympic-size swimming pool, and watersports from jet-skiing to parasailing and speedboating.

After several days in the city, visiting the Everglades was a complete contrast. Instead of the vibrant hum of city traffic, there was nothing but the empty highway ahead of us, a dead straight white line bisect-



Chris Blackwell, who revived four of Miami's Art Deco hotels, keeps his pink Cadillac parked outside the Marlin

ing mile after mile of sub-tropical forest and wetlands.

The journey to Everglades City along Highway 41, the "Tamiami Trail", takes an hour and 45 minutes. Once there, it feels as if you've stepped back 40 years. The town's neat wooden houses are built on stilts, to protect against flooding, and are arranged along a grid of streets so straight they must have been laid out on graph paper. The town has a population of 500 and a fish restaurant, the Oyster House, serving stone crab, grouper and oysters.

caught off the Atlantic coast that morning.

After lunch we went in search of some wildlife: alligators, to be specific. On a bizarre-looking craft with a big fan on the back, we journeyed into the wetlands, through floating islands of sawgrass and waterlilies. Alligators soon appeared, seemingly undisturbed by the noise of the boat's engine. They allowed themselves to be photographed and then sank slowly beneath the mirror-like surface of the water.

Much of the Everglades is

now too polluted to provide good fishing, our guide said, so the indigenous population of Miccosukee Indians had been forced to look elsewhere for their livelihood. He had grown up in one of the Everglades' villages; it is now deserted, a sad reminder of a vanished way of life.

Back in the city, we headed for the Hard Rock Café on Bayside, for hamburger and French fries, followed by dancing — at Lua, in Espanola Way, whose elegant interior, all mirrors and chandeliers, is offset by loud jazz-funk.

Next stop was the more serene Delano Hotel on Collins Avenue, whose romantically surreal lobby and bar, designed by Phillip Starck, seems like a backdrop for a *Vogue* photo-shoot.

The night was still young, and there were still places to go, people to see. In Miami, the only thing you might find in short supply is sleep.

CHRISTINA KONING

The author was a guest of American Airlines and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

MIAMI FACT FILE

■ American Airlines (0181-577 9966) flies direct from Heathrow to Miami from £325 (low season) to £525.

■ Recommended hotels and the costs per person a night, room only, are: Park Central Hotel, from £51; Doubletree Hotel, £70; and the Sonesta Hotel, Key Biscayne, £106.

■ Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 0800 892994.

■ A day trip with Styles Tours through the Everglades costs £51, including lunch.

■ Four of Miami's famous Art Deco hotels — the Leslie, Cavalier, Marlin and Casa Grande — are owned by Island Outpost (information and reservations, freephone 0800 614 790) and cost from about £62 per person a night, plus 11.5 per cent tax. The company also runs (as a two-centre attraction) the Compass Point Hotel, Nassau, Bahamas (from about £90 a night, plus 15 per cent tax) and the Pink Sands Resort, where a one-bedroom cottage, breakfast and dinner costs from about £200 plus 20 per cent tax.



Orlando: Bored with theme parks? Disney can help you learn more than you wanted to know

The heart of the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Florida, is probably the last place you would expect to find one of the more obscure musings of Winston Churchill about education, hand-painted above a doorway. It is just not that sort of place. At least, not until

recently. In its search for ever-more innovative ways of luring people to its 30,000-acre resort, Disney has come up with a college-style campus where tourists bored with the thrill of the theme park can learn some useful, and some not-so-useful skills.

That Churchill quote, which

appears on a campus building, is, therefore, more apt than would first appear. "I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught," said Churchill in a 1952 speech. Disney's vision is to make the teaching as entertaining as it is educational.

Tucked away from the theme park, the Disney Institute is in its own grounds of pastel-coloured buildings designed to evoke turn-of-the-century small-town America. With studios, theatres, kitchens and sports facilities, it offers a core of about 60 learning programmes to teach everything from cooking and animation techniques to topiary and television news scripting. Being American, it inevitably has courses for "personal development".

Guests enrol for three or seven days, during which time they stay in bungalows around a lake. Children under ten are not encouraged, although, since it opened in the spring, the institute has had to accommodate them with their own learning programmes.

Meals are eaten in the campus restaurant or from lunch boxes for those too busy to sit down for a meal.

Guest lecturers supplement the regular tutors and British tastes are represented by the lyricist Tim Rice, who earned huge royalties from the film *The Lion King*.

The concept of self-improvement seminars in pleasant surroundings is quintessentially American. The Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York, where the Disney chairman, Michael Eisner, first discovered the idea several years ago, is the sort of place where trendy East Coast intellectuals like to spend their weekends discussing politics, philosophy and the perform-



Cooking with Disney

Mickey Mouse teaching course

ing arts. Disney has kept the concept but brought its ambitions down to more practical levels: rock climbing, for instance, or interior design.

But does it appeal to the 30 million tourists who flock to Disney World every year, particularly the record million-plus Britons who are expected to jet into Orlando to visit Disney World this summer?

Disney acknowledges that the institute will be of interest only to a niche market and will be able to accommodate only 1,000 "students". Most will be from the "baby boomer" generation of Americans who have grown up with Disney theme parks and now, accord-

ing to research, are looking for an "enrichment vacation".

Britons, however, may be less enamoured with the "education". They may also be put off by the Disney approach which encourages participants to "bond" with fellow students at the beginning of each session, a group therapy that Americans seem to embrace enthusiastically, even if it is just to learn how to create an animated character or take better photographs.

Most non-Americans on my courses (cooking and animation) were, quite frankly, embarrassed. The two-hour relationship course to "empower your life and work with new vigour and vitality" might be beyond the pale for most Britons.

Yet it would be wrong to ignore the potential of the institute for some Britons. Although Disney is keen to sell the institute as a package, especially to fill hotel rooms, visitors to Disney World can pay \$49-\$69 (about £32-£45), depending on season, to join the courses for a day. Hence, while the children are in the theme or water park, parents can play golf or improve their tennis, or relax with a seaweed hydro massage.

It may be that better cooking, film-making, learning about the environment and so on has some appeal as a one-day diversion from the theme park under the hot Florida sun, especially for repeat visitors.

DAVID CHURCHILL

● The author was a guest of the Disney Institute at Disney World.

● Bridge Travel Service (01992 456 101) has a seven-night institute offer, including flights, accommodation, meals and classes, at £997 per person.

● The Disney Institute direct number is (01) 407 827-1100. Details of other Disney tours are available from (01) 407 830 887.

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TRAVEL DIRECTORY



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Burlin's, fulfilment of a childhood dream at last
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BRAZIL
Exploring the jungle that is Rio de Janeiro at its lively best
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TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 20

Stockholm: The supposed 'Venice of the North' is much cleaner and better run than its Italian cousin

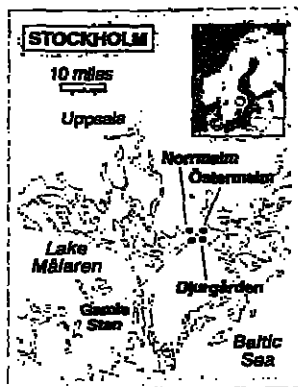
Swedes with a watery taste

Ingmar Bergman, one of Stockholm's most famous sons, said: "It's ridiculous to think of Stockholm as a city. It is simply a rather large village. You wonder what it's doing there, looking so important."

Certainly, with only a third of its area occupied by buildings (one third is water and the other parkland), much of the capital does not feel like a city at all. Of course, it has wide, elegant boulevards lined with smart shops and huge modern shopping centres, but Stockholm does have a fresh, wholesome, almost unworldly feel about it. In which other city could you dive off steps by the city hall or fish for salmon in the town centre?

It is probably unfair to call Stockholm the "Venice of the north". An abundance of water and a long mercantile and military history may allow comparisons but there are no similarities. It is cleaner and more efficiently run than Venice, accommodating its substantial tourist influx rather than being swamped by it. Finally, there may be some wider significance in the fact that, for geological reasons, Stockholm is rising, whereas Venice is sinking.

Stockholm consists of 28 islands lying in a wide estuary



leading to the Baltic and the sea is a constant brooding presence. Wherever you go you are reminded of the role of water in the city's history. Whether glittering in the gentle summer sun or frozen flat and slate grey in the winter, it provides a simple, serene backdrop to the city's magnificent Baroque architecture. The old town, Gamla Stan, where Stockholm was founded in the 13th century, is dominated by the royal palace, the Kungliga Slottet. Larger than Buckingham Palace, as the Swedes will tell you, this vast baroque and rococo confection stands as a monument to the wealth and power of Sweden's 18th-century kings. Today, the country's bicycling monarchy has cycled off to its country resi-

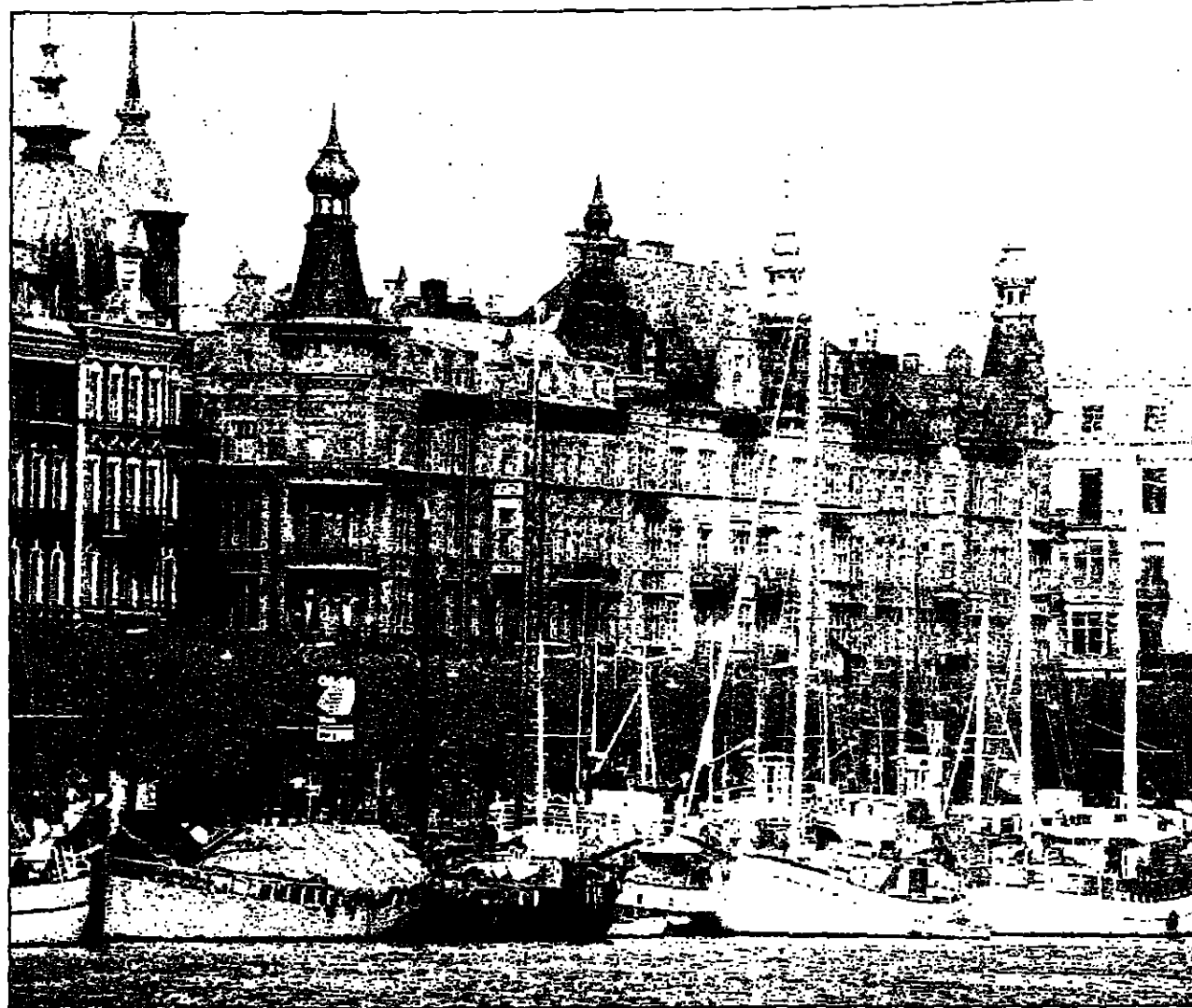
dence and so the palace is used only for state occasions. The state apartments are open to the public, as is the Treasury with its array of royal jewellery dating back to 1650.

Because most of Gamla Stan is closed to cars, you can walk right up to the palace and the Storkyrkan, the Great Church. At night, the cobbled streets, Baroque decorations and gentle lighting give it the appearance of a stage set for a Mozart opera. By contrast, the simple interior of the Great Church is striking with its brick columns and black and silver altarpieces. This is the highest point of the old town and Swedish kings and queens are crowned and married here.

Given its size and international standing, Stockholm has more than its fair share of castles, monuments and palaces whose history is reflected in their magnificent architecture and decoration.

The Riddarhuset, the House of Nobles, where the upper house met in the 17th century, displays 2,500 coats of arms. On the neighbouring island is Riddarholmskyrkan church, where 600 years' worth of Swedish kings are buried.

Leading down from the royal palace and Stortorget, the main square, are narrow



Wherever you look, the watersides of Stockholm are crammed with working boats, ferries and pleasure cruisers

cobbled streets filled with shops, Konditoris (pastry shops), restaurants and the old, tall merchants' houses. By contrast, Bormalm and Östermalm, to the west, have a strong American feel, with large modern blocks and wide streets of surging traffic.

Sweden takes its design seriously, and there are plenty of shop windows displaying the distinctively stark Post-Modernist style which is again fashionable. Clothes and furniture shops abound, such as Design Torget (near the Kulturhuset), the Conranesque R.O.O.M. (Alströmergatan 20) and NK (Hamngatan 18-20), the city's main department store. Prices may limit most to window shopping.

Temporarily but comfortably housed in Norrmalm until the opening of its new venue in 1998, when the city becomes European cultural capital, is the Modern Art Museum with a respectable collection of American and European post and abstract Impressionists.

Sweden's museums are run with gentle efficiency. The most innovative of them are on Djurgården, an island to the

north of Gamla Stan, which is almost exclusively parkland. For my money, the most striking of them all is the Vasa, which takes its name from the 300-year-old warship it houses. Nothing can prepare you for the vast, menacing presence of this 700-tonne warship, raised from Stockholm harbour where it sank 15 minutes into its maiden voyage in 1628.

Almost as awe-inspiring is the Guldrunmet at the Historiska Museet in Östermalm, a womb-like subterranean vault with gold coins and jewellery dating from 10,000 BC.

Should you crave even more water and island life, the Stockholm archipelago has 24,000 islands which can be reached by boat. Most are deserted, but others support tiny communities in traditional wooden houses. You are allowed to land on any of the islands one and walk around the shoreline, provided that you do not annoy its owner.

The summer offers guaranteed crowd-free swimming, sailing and sunbathing, especially on Sandhamn, home of

the Royal Yacht Club. During the winter you can skate from one island to another.

Swedish food is fighting a losing battle against lighter more varied immigrant varieties, especially Italian. The indigenous fare is fish-based and hearty, but most restaurants, such as Diana (Brunnsgränd 2) or Hannas Krog (Skanebrunn 80) offer a successful mixture.

Similarly, Swedish patisserie is comforting rather than dainty, but irresistible combined with aromatic Swedish coffee offered in the cosy warmth of one of the city's coffee shops such as Sturekatten (Riddarsgatan 4). More effete patisserie is available at the Opera House Cafe where you can attack a smorgasbord of gateaux and coffee and look out over the water.

SIMON BROOKE

● The author was a guest of SAS, the Hotel Victory and Kallhagens.

FACT FILE

■ SAS (0345 010789) and BA (0345 111222) have regular flights from London to Stockholm from £205 return.

■ Hotel Victory, Lilla Nygatan (00 46 8 143090, fax 202177) and Kallhagens Wardhus, Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 10 (00 46 8 6650300, fax 6650399) offer two-night weekend breaks, including flights from £335.

■ Weekend and short breaks, including flights and accommodation, are available from £220 with Norvika (0171-409 7334), and from £289 with SAS (0141-951 8988). Scan Meridian offers holidays in the Stockholm archipelago from £259 and packages to the city itself.

■ Recommended guides: the Rough Guide to Scandinavia (£10.99) and Fodor's Sweden (£9.99).

■ Average winter temperatures in Stockholm are -3C; summer, 15C-20C. Long summer nights change the character of the city, with more events (especially eating and drinking) taking place. Winters are cold but often sunny.

■ Swedish Travel and Tourism Council, 11 Montagu Place, London W1 (0171-724 5368).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

HAMMADA

(b) A flat rocky area of desert blown free of sand by the wind, typical of the Sahara. The Arabic word *hammada*. "Rocky wastes, with the bare exposure of fissured rocks as dominant features of the scene, form the hammada type of the Sahara."

MONADNOCK

(c) A hill or mountain of erosion-resistant rock rising above a plain. A toponym from the name of a mountain in New Hampshire, USA, having this character. The toponym appears in Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), "his great Monadnock hump". Auden, *Age of Anxiety*, 1947: "O stiffly stand, a staid monadnock. On her penitence."

HEPBURN

(b) A Romanised transcription of Japanese characters. An eponym of J. C. Hepburn (1815-1911), an American missionary and physician. "These [Japanese] sounds are transcribed into Roman letters, either by the Hepburn system or by the Japanese system of 'New spelling'. The outside world sticks to the Hepburn system."

MACHER

(a) A man of importance, a bigwig; a braggart. Often derogatory. Yiddish, from the German *macher* a maker or doer. Saul Bellow, *Herzog*, 1964: "He's a fine fellow, not like that macher, Alexander. Always some scandal about him."

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TRAVEL

17

Britain: Dodgems and disappointment in Minehead; unlimited fun for children and parents in Wiltshire



Butlin's fare is time-warp 1950s. Fresh food was scarce

Butlin's and that sinking feeling

I was half term at Butlin's, Minehead, on the north Somerset coast. The sun shone brightly, its heat tempered by a sharp sea breeze. My two young sons and I slid down the helter skelter, rode the carousel, ate candy floss and ice-cream and felt slightly sick on a number of gravity-defying rides.

On the Octopus, we flew around and up and down, winning fleeting glances of sparkling waves, a tiny fishing port, green Somerset hills and, below us, striped fairground awnings. My sons shrieked and whooped with delight. After 35 years of waiting, I was fulfilling a dream.

The Butlin's I had glimpsed as a child was a black and white version advertised on television. There were smiling redcoats and equally smiling children, and the screen was slashed across with "All for free". My father did not share my enthusiasm and, despite pleas, I never went. Perhaps he was right. For during our weekend at Butlin's that moment of dream fulfillment was brief.

At the start, there were merely teething problems. Our room was equipped with television, kettle, blow heaters and constant hot water, but it did not have towels — some-

thing I should have noticed in the brochure. With the help of vivid descriptions of three days without washing, we persuaded customer services reluctantly to lend us some. I also forgot soap, but found some in the 24-hour supermarket where the extensive stock included Butlin's own-label sparkling wine. In a panic I looked beneath the bedcovers: fortunately, I had not been expected to bring sheets.

We soon progressed to the bad things. The room was grubby, in need of a good clean and a lick of paint even near the start of the season. The only way to deal with the badly-leaking shower was to ask for a floor cloth and mop up as we went along.

The activities were much the same. Football was played in a gloomy upstairs room, with a softball, instead of outside. At the swimming pool, the changing room floor was so squelchy with dirt that I taught the boys to dry and dress while standing on their shoes. Lifeguards seem sleepy and the one at the top of the potentially dangerous tubes sat back in a trance.

The food was time-warp 1950s. Breakfast was a meal of much starch and little goodness. The evening meal, eaten at 5.15-6.15pm — similar. I



Take the plunge at Butlin's in Minehead, Somerset, but visitors must remember to bring their own towels, they are not provided, and nor is soap

haven't seen vegetables boiled to a pulp in years. Apart from a banana offered at one meal, the nearest thing we got to fresh food during the whole stay was the cocktail of tinned grapefruit and mandarin orange segments on Sunday's gala menu — which Oliver loved. He asked why I never gave it to him at home.

What surprised me most were the hidden costs. Having been to a number of funfairs, this was the first where each group of rides had one which William and Oliver instantly saw to be best and which invariably cost money, sometimes 50p, sometimes one or two pounds, or more. In addition, the shopping mall was the hub of the entire complex. I could see why the management had placed it between the rooms and the activities, but it seemed tough to have a sports rental shop that fleeced a lad of £2.50 for one hour's use of a skateboard.

Worst of all was the staff morale, which depressed us all. Barely a smile all weekend, except from our harassed waiter. The redcoats were lacklustre. Their clubs were deemed boring by both my boys, their shows worse.

When we went on the dodgems a morose girl yelled at us not to bump into any other car, which seemed to defeat the object of the game.

It could be argued that £171.39 for three nights for these people on half board with a good amount of entertainment is too good a deal to allow for complaint. But no one should have to suffer dirt, shabbiness, barely adequate food, a string of hidden costs and a staff who make you wish you had stayed at home.

On the last morning, there were empty beer bottles in the duckpond. William had gone to play indoor football. Oliver and I took a last turn at the funfair. I suggested the carousel. It looked closed, but we found the attendant in his hut. "Are you open?" I asked. "At 10 o'clock," he said looking glum. It was 10.30am. "May we have a ride, please?" He shuffled to his feet. "Do you want music?" "Yes, please." "Oh, no," he groaned. "I have to listen to that all day long." Oliver and I clambered onto our peeling horses, enjoyed our ride and went home.

LOUISE NICHOLSON

● The author stayed in a county room at Butlin's Somerset World, Minehead, Somerset.

FACT FILE

■ Butlin's brochures can be ordered from Butlin's Holiday Worlds, Freeport, Weymouth, Dorset, or by telephone (0181-880 8181); Central Butlin's booking is 0345 700700.

■ Weekend breaks are from Friday afternoon to Monday (check-out at 10am, activities for the rest of the day).

■ The July 5-8 weekend break at Somerset World costs £75 per adult (15 and over) for a budget room, rising through county room and county suite to a premier room at £134; children aged two to 14 are half price.

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LOUISE NICHOLSON'S visit to Butlin's (above) was the fulfilment of a dream that sadly turned sour. Children today clamouring to go to Center Parcs will not be disappointed and nor will their parents, writes Timothy Rice.

Ignore the tacky name. Designer-fun this may be, but it is achieved with taste and style. The Center Parc at Longleat Forest, Wiltshire was as smoothly run as you would expect of the Dutch, who dreamt up the whole idea. No leaky showers, no grubby rooms — and no sleepy staff, just old-fashioned no-fuss helpfulness.

My two daughters, aged 6 and 4, adored it. All those traffic-free roads through the forests (cars are rarely permitted on site) were heaven for pavement-bikers. The Sub-tropical Swimming Paradise came a close second favourite, with its outdoor wild water rapids. They tried short tennis (small rackets and a foam ball), roller-skating, Arthurian crazy golf (castles, dragons, moats, you name it), well-equipped playgrounds, ten-pin bowling and a kindergarten session.

Our "villa" overlooking a lake was peaceful and comfortable. One night a babysitter came while we went out to La Caprice, a good French restaurant. There are many other places to eat, uniformly good but not cheap.

Price is the only serious caveat. An "executive" two-bedroomed villa such as ours (maximum four people) would cost £529 for a long weekend if you went next Friday. Then there are the extras — meals, court fees, racket hire, etc. You could take your own executive food but the cook in the family probably wants a break too. Or you could all go to Butlin's.

● The author was a guest of Center Parcs. The other two are in Nottinghamshire and Suffolk. Prices are all per villa and vary according to season and to which option you choose — a long weekend, four weekdays or a whole week. All bookings 01623 411411.

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Brazil: An intoxicating look at Rio de Janeiro, a glimpse of the spectacular Iguazu Falls and mountain...

You might as well get drunk if you're not in Brazil

My love affair with Brazil started when I lived there 30 years ago and has continued, despite the infrequency of my visits. My comments following a recent trip there should, I suppose, be taken in the light of this passion.

On the basis that no two-week holiday in a country stretching 4,319km east to west and 4,394km north to south, with more than 153 million inhabitants, can begin to cover the basics, three parts of call must serve to give a flavour. The first is Rio: *Cidade Maravilhosa*. As the late, great Tom Jobim wrote in his song *Samba do Avião (Aeroplane Samba)*: "My soul sings as I see Rio de Janeiro..." as you set foot on the ground at

Rio International Airport, bend down and kiss it, then grab a cab and zoom off into the city along the smart Red Route, built for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Nowhere on earth has the configuration of Rio: vertiginous giant black granite rocks rise out of the tropical forested hill slopes; long fingers of aquamarine sea, rimmed by mile upon mile of white beaches, penetrate the land at every opportunity. To experience the full impact of this, absolute must-visits are the cable-car ride connecting the two large lumps in the sea known as Sugar Loaf (*Paço do Acucar*); for vertigo sufferers, like me, go only to the first lump (closing your eyes while in the cable-car) and view from there. The other essential



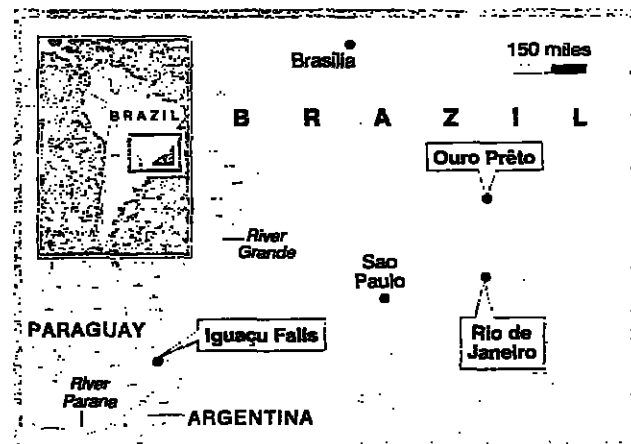
Rio, above, is boisterous, funny, romantic and utterly seductive. Copacabana Beach, below, where the sun shines all year round, is a favourite with Brazilians and visitors

viewing spot is the Corcovado mountain topped by the Christ figure which, arms outstretched, watches over the city. From here, the whole of Guanabara Bay can be seen, as well as the awesome figure of Christ from close-up. Up

there, it feels like a holy place. The racial concoction that gives Brazilians their character can be seen at every street corner. Here, at any *barzinho* (little bar, *zinho* being the ubiquitous diminutive) gulping a *cafézinho*, a delectable *vitamina* (mixed fruit mushed in the whizzer) or a fiery *cachaça* (local sugar cane liquor) are the descendants of Portuguese, Indian and African forebears.

Scarcely a soul in Brazil does not have traces of all of these forebears in their blood. The mixture is boisterous, romantic, funny and utterly seductive, and Brazilian culture, especially its music, dancing, cooking, art and architecture, flourishes in the rich stew.

There's no place better to observe these characteristics than at *Estudantina*, a cavernous 1940s-style dancehall in the centre of the city. Writ large as you enter the generous wooden staircase are the words: "Enquanto houver dança haverá esperança" — (While there is dancing there is hope). Lofty wooden ceilings, walls plastered in photo-



graphs, wooden floors swept by whooshing gusts of wind from the fans and the windows wide open to the warm Rio night, this has been a dancing rendezvous for 50 years and remains virtually unchanged.

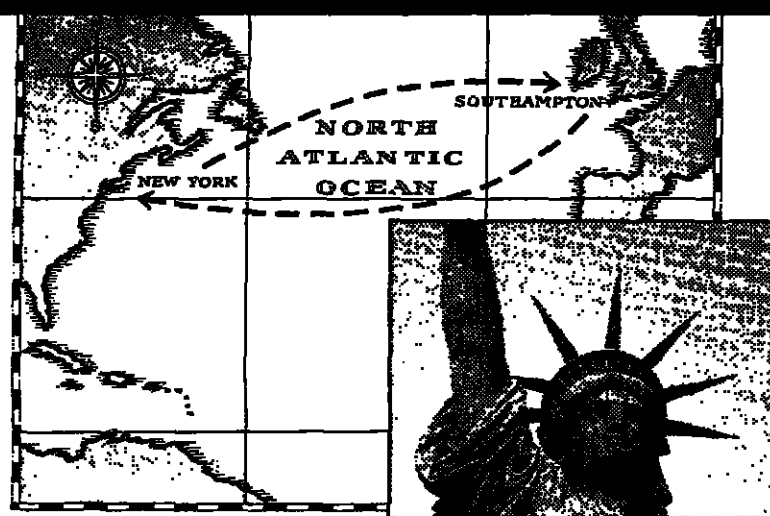
A jaunty 12-piece band resplendent in cricketer whites plays the night away: this is not carnival, this is every week: *sambas* and *chorinhos*, *lambadas*, *boleros* and *salsas*, plus foxtrots and quicksteps. Participants actually hold

each other as in ballroom dancing in what is a revived craze throughout Brazil, as well as, I gather, in the rest of the world. Whole families, streetloads of people, turn up in their glad rags: old, young, fat, thin, black, white, *chauffeurs* and domestics, privileged and poor, the mix is infinite. Rules are written up on the walls: no short skirts, no drinks, no "rough kissing". The most *elegantissimo* black man of about 80 whirled a stropky-looking woman



whose pictures line the Golden Room along with Carmen Miranda, Thomas Mann, Bing Crosby, Igor Stravinsky, Mick Jagger, Mary Pickford, Margot Fonteyn, Orson Welles and a host of other celebs (including, mind-bogglingly, John Major), all of whom have signed the famous Golden Book, going strong since 1923.

An enchanting view of Brazilian life and death can be seen in the museum of folk art at the *Casa do Pontal*, which lies at the end of the string of beaches which extend from Leme and Copacabana, through Leblon, Ipanema, Barra da Tijuca and beyond. Lovingly assembled over 40 years by Jacques van de Beucque, it contains more than 3,500 objects in clay and wood by native artists from all over Brazil. All human life is here, some of it mechanically active as in the great set pieces: a wedding or a circus or a carnival in Rio; others are static — midwives attending births, dentists and doctors operating, footballers playing, musicians thumping away. Continued on next page



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TRAVEL

19

...splendours of Ouro Preto, a gold-mining town with a few baroque surprises

BRAZIL FACT FILE

■ Summer in Brazil is from December to March. In Rio the temperature rarely drops below 28C but it can be very hot in high summer. Autumn and spring are still warm enough to swim. A light jacket might be needed at night in winter. Sunshine and blue skies can be relied on at all times.

■ Varig Brazilian Airlines has five direct flights a week to Rio de Janeiro from Heathrow. Wednesday and Thursday flights are non-stop, while Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights are via São Paulo. Return flights cost from about £620.

■ Copacabana Palace, Avenida Atlântica, 1702 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil CEP 22021-001 (00 55 21 255 7070, fax 00 55 21 255 7330). On the promenade facing Copacabana beach, this impressive white-tucco edifice is Rio's most traditional and luxurious hotel. Cost per person sharing a double/twin room, room only, from £70-£100 a night. Suites from £125 per person per night. Reservations: Orient-Express Hotels 0181-568 8366.

■ Tours arranged through Classico Turismo, Vera Joppert, Av N Sra de Copacabana 1059/805, 22060-000 (00 55 21 287 3390, fax 00 55 21 521 4636).

■ Copacabana Palace and Classico tours may also be booked through Latin America Travel, 7 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JX (0171-630 0070, fax 0171-630 9900), or Journey Latin America, 14-16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315, fax 0181-742 1312).

■ Parque das Aves (Bird Park), Rodovia das Cataratas is situated near to the Iguaçu Falls National Park (00 55 21 523 1007).

■ Casa do Pontal, 3295 Estrada do Pontal (off Avenida Sernambetiba) (00 55 21 437 6278/226 3540/226 4914). Open Sat-Sun 2-6pm; about £2.30. Allow about half a day for the visit.

families at dinner, school-rooms, shoemakers, even journalists sucking their pens are depicted in loving detail. Your second part of call must be the Iguaçu Falls, one of the wonders of the world. This is no mere waterfall any more than the Sahara is a pile of sand. A two-hour flight from Rio gets you to Iguaçu, which sits on the frontiers of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. On the Brazilian side, we approached the falls from below by large rubber boat with two big engines. Although clad in what felt like large condoms, we were soaked to the skin by the time we'd reached the top of the nearest fall. The pilot seemed to sense a game crowd in our boat. Thrills? We had 'em in buckets. On the Argentinian side is

the spot where *The Mission* was filmed. This is jaw-droppingly awesome. Huge flocks of martens wheel into the spray for their morning shower, looping in and out of the almost permanent rain-kiss. Nothing can prepare you for the sight. Our guide says there are three or four suicides a year here: a spectacular and very certain way to go.

Near Iguaçu is a bird park which I felt duty bound to visit in honour of Julia, my Amazon parrot. Opened in 1994, it is a feast of feathers in their natural habitat. Flottas of butterflies (there are 3,500 different species) accompany us everywhere we go, alighting all over us, six or eight per head in places. Some of the birds are nearly as friendly

and numerous. Talk about Eden... The third part of call must be Ouro Preto, an exquisite, baroque-style gold-mining town in the mountains about 480km northeast of Rio. You fly into Belo Horizonte from Rio (one hour) and then take a two-hour bus or taxi ride. But it is pure joy when you get there.

I have recently been drawn to it by reading the letters of the American poet Elizabeth Bishop who lived in Ouro Preto. "Here where all the world still stops," she wrote in one of her poems (*Under the Window, Ouro Preto*), and while more lories thunder past it than when she was there in the late 1960s and early 1970s, her house Casa Mariana still clings to the side of the mountain she described so vividly in her letters. As I

sat in a nearby bar downing my *caipirinha* and watching night fall over this blessed valley of 45,000 people and 20 gilded churches, the moon rose, and I wished I too could write poetry. Around every corner in Ouro Preto a shock of beauty lies in wait. Built along the sides of a valley, the painted houses hang off the sides; the churches soar above it all. Aleijadinho, (a brutal nickname meaning "little cripple"), a word you need to get around Brazil. It means "a way", as in "There must be a way to jump this queue, park this car and so on". *Jeito* is a bit of charm, a bit of patience, and a ton of *chutpah*. You can acquire it, as opposed to being born with it, and after a few weeks it will have magically become part of your basic equipment. A couple of books

New York, as well as for a few dollars in every *barzinho* in Brazil. Next come limes, lemons won't do. Cut them into eighths and place five or six in the bottom of a glass. Add a heaped teaspoon of caster sugar, crush with a pestle or blunt instrument. Splish a generous amount of cachaca into the mixture and fill with broken ice. Drink and repeat. The second word is *Jeito* or *Jeitinho* (jay-too or jay-teen-yo), a word you need to get around Brazil. It means "a way", as in "There must be a way to jump this queue, park this car and so on". *Jeito* is a bit of charm, a bit of patience, and a ton of *chutpah*. You can acquire it, as opposed to being born with it, and after a few weeks it will have magically become part of your basic equipment. A couple of books

will help you get around: Rio: the Guide by Christopher Pickard and How to be a Carioca: The Alternative Guide for the Tourist in Rio by Priscilla Ann Goslin. And the last word is *Saudades* (sow-dah-dez), which there isn't a word for in English. They are wistful longings more powerful than nostalgia, and are felt both for people and places: crucially for Brazil when you leave. Someone told me they also include "might have been", which adds another twist to the knife in the heart. I'm feeling them right now. Only a *caipirinha* might assuage the pain. Or perhaps two.

LIZ CALDER

■ The author was a guest of Varig Airlines and the Copacabana Palace Hotel.



The statue of Christ which overlooks Guanabara Bay and the city of Rio from the top of Corcovado mountain

An Ernest look at life

There is a scene in Ernest Hemingway's memoir of Paris, *A Moveable Feast*, where he sits in his attic room at Rue Descartes, his pen iced to a halt by the cold. He considers buying kindling and wood at the corner shop, but worries that the fire may not take and his limited money will be squandered. Instead, he walks out into the rain.

"I walked past the Lycée Henri Quatre and the ancient church of St-Etienne-du-Mont and the windswept Place du Pantheon and cut in for shelter to the right and finally came out on the lee side of the Boulevard St-Michel and on past the Cluny and the Boulevard St-Germain until I came to a good café on the Place St-Michel." There, the starving artist who could not afford firewood orders *café au lait*. Then a rum St James. Then another. Then a dozen oysters and a carafe of dry white wine. Today, the 5th arrondissement where Hemingway lived in the 1920s is more the haunt of the tourist classes than the writing classes. The house at 39 Rue Descartes, where Hemingway wrote and the poet Paul Verlaine died, now houses a tacky bistro.

However, on a summer morning when the streets are quiet, there is nothing better than mooching round Hem's patch (as his mates called him) and following routes like the one above. The 5th was also home to George Orwell, James Joyce and Jean Rhys. In the cafés nearby, like the *Closier des Lias* and the *Selester* at Montparnasse, the ever-changing cast expanded to include Ezra Pound, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ford Madox Ford. Many were refugees from prohibition in America. Although Hemingway wrote in Rue Descartes, he lived with his first wife at 74 Rue Cardinal Lemoine "in a two-room

flat that had no hot water and no inside toilet facilities except an antiseptic container, not uncomfortable to anyone who was used to a Michigan out-house". None of the writers was bothered by lack of comfort. In 1938, Orwell moved in down the road at 6 Rue du Port-Fer. He says the condierge in the equally grubby hotel opposite once came out to berate one of her residents for squashing bed bugs on the wallpaper: "Why can't you throw them out of the window like everyone else?"

There are two ways of discovering Hemingway country: The first and easiest is to join Paris-Walking Tours for their two-hour trip round the area. The guide, Oriol Caine, includes the other landmarks on the hill Sainte Genevieve like the Pantheon and the church of St-Etienne, and quotes from the various authors. The walk is amusing and thorough.

ly recommended, a copy of *Paris - A Literary Companion* by Ian Littlewood (John Murray publishers, £11.99). Paris Walking Tours, Hemingway's Paris (0045 46 021 40).

■ August kitch special: Festival d'été de la chanson populaire française, 8.30pm and 10.30pm daily at Théâtre Montmartr-Galabru (42 23 15 85).

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JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

A la carte holidays

EXPERIENCED long-haul travelers are demanding more flexibility and independence in the choice of itineraries and accommodation, says Sue Biggs of Kuoni (01306 740500), one of Britain's top long-haul specialists. Smaller companies have been offering tailor-made holidays for years, but now Kuoni is able to assemble and price "à la carte" holidays instantly, using the brochure as the basic menu, without surcharge.

For 1996-97, Cuba, Chile, cruises from the Maldives, Phuket and Bali are being introduced, with special offers for single travellers and children. For example, a 14-night Images of India tour, visiting Cochin, Kumarakom and Periyar, costs from £1,299.

Battle tours

ON THE 40th anniversary of the 1956 Allied landings at Suez, Holts' Tours (01304 612248) is running a ten-night trip which visits the landing area at Port Said and other battlefields. Sites of the 1967 and 1973 Egypt-Israel wars are also included on the tour, plus the Pyramids and the Tutankhamun treasures in Cairo. The trip, which leaves on November 1, costs from £1,347.

Japan saver

THERE ARE savings of £500 on a *ten-day tour to Japan departing on September 13*; the tour, which includes flights, accommodation

and visits to Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and a journey on the bullet train, costs £1,290 from Japan Experience (01703 730830).

Truffle hunt

IT'S THEORETICALLY possible to make a profit on the Alternative Travel Groups' (01865 513333) Umbrian truffle hunting holidays in October and December. As well as the search for the elusive and expensive "black diamonds", the seven-night holiday includes cookery demonstrations, walks and visits to churches, museums and castles. The trip costs between £1,035 and £1,075 for flights, all meals and three-star hotel accommodation in Norcia.

Golfing orgy

GOLFING specialists Longshot Golf (01730 230361) is offering an Around the World in 30 Days golfing orgy in October 1997. The tour tees off at Wentworth, and then heads off to famous courses in the United Arab Emirates, the Pines in Brisbane, the Boulder in Arizona and Sentosa in Singapore. Accommodation, flights and green fees are included in the price of £11,000.

Bonn chance

AN EIGHT-DAY Beethoven Marathon is being held in the composer's native Bonn from September 21 with a grande finale of 31 hours of non-stop music. Locations include the church where he was baptised, the church where he learnt to play the organ, and the Redoute where he met Haydn.

British conductor Roger Norrington and the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are taking part. Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) offers three-night B&B breaks from £273, including flights, and can arrange all concert tickets.

Thai down

NEW ROUTES for the Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-805 5100) include Kanchanaburi in western Thailand and the bridge over the River Kwai this autumn, and a journey between Bangkok and Chiang Mai early next year. Prices for the two-night Singapore, River Kwai to Bangkok trip are from £890, the one-night Bangkok to Chiang Mai route from £550.

Children free

MORE THAN 700 hotels and guest houses in Austria offer free bedrooms for children under 12 during the Family Autumn period between September 1 and November 3. Details from the Austrian Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

Late choices

TRAVELLERS seeking last-minute bargain holidays where accommodation is allocated on arrival (the type of holiday that probably generates more complaints from travellers than any other) will be able to pre-select certain requirements on First Choice's new Late Choice scheme, available from travel agents.

Among the categories you can opt for are Near the Beach, where accommodation will either be on the beach or within 200 metres.



Enjoy the Austrian Tirol and save money: 700 hotels and guest houses offer free rooms for children under 12 in the autumn

Families, Couples, or even
Naturist, with easy access to
nudist beaches.

Cape escape

A NINE-NIGHT holiday in October based in Hermanus, the

whaling capital of South Africa, includes land-based whale watching. The inquisitive mammals play in the surf a stone's-throw from the village.

The trip includes tours of Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve and a two-day drive

along the coast. The price of £1,485 from Discover the World (01737 218800) includes return flights via Amsterdam from Heathrow, on any UK regional airport, all accommodation, some meals, various excursions and whale-watching trips.

CORRECTION

Educational Visits and Exchanges is at 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN (0171-389 4004) and Regent Holidays is 15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR (0117-921 1711) not as published in Weekend of August 10.

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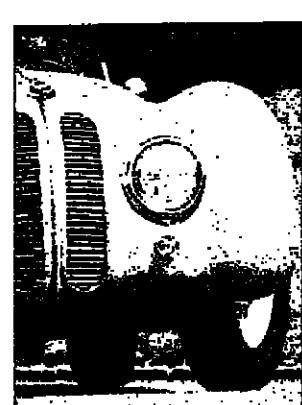


Has the car of the future already arrived?

Page 2



Legends
of BMW
take the
California
limelight



Page 5

SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

RK

Scooter sales have accelerated as commuters buy themselves valuable time and freedom, says **Jennai Cox**



Scooter converts Veronica Cefis (right) and Martine Rhoda with their new machines. Two wheels will save them both time and money, free them from public transport problems and add an element of personal security to commuting

Why commute when you can scoot?

In the desperate attempt to escape the trauma of traffic, overcrowded buses, late-running trains and strike-hit Tubes the British commuter has rediscovered the scooter. Travellers from Cumbria to Cornwall are buying the lightweight, runaround motorbikes so popular on the Continent.

Sales of powered two-wheelers have risen every week this year, led by a new breed of multi-coloured, slick and sexy looking scooters designed to attract the fashion-conscious and those who have never considered bike riding before.

Sales to women have risen 20 per cent, with many choosing step-through models which can be ridden easily in a skirt.

Retailers say interest jumped after Noel Gallagher of Oasis and Jonathan Ross were seen riding them.

But the days of mods and nostalgia for their Lambretta culture are past: the scooter buyer is now more likely to be a city worker than a teenager.

According to Ian Waldoock, a partner at London's Metropolitan Motorcycles, "They are professionals and are making scooters more acceptable. It's not a cranky, old-fashioned form of transport anymore. People want to

buy back the time they spend travelling."

Martine Rhoda, who was inspired to buy a silver Piaggio Sfera 500cc last week by a colleague, worked out that switching from the Tube and car will save her 11 days a year, and "a fortune". She says, "All my friends with scooters say it's a good way of de-stressing your life and saving money. I feel so liberated."

Martine who lives in Fulham has to be at her desk in a City investment bank by 7.30 each morning. Using a scooter has cut her journey time from one hour to 25 minutes.

Alison Krug swapped her Travelcard for a yellow Piaggio Typhoon 80cc last January to get to work in North London. "Everyone is so friendly, they stop to chat at traffic lights after you've zoomed past the queuing cars. In the Tube everyone just sits and stares," she says.

Worried about the anonymity of a crash helmet and being able to travel when they choose, Sarah Waghorn, promotions art director for *Elle* magazine, bought her black Piaggio Sfera 80cc a month ago to avoid having to hang around train stations. "I have to work late sometimes and the bike gives me more freedom," she



Scooters are the ideal way to negotiate city rush-hour traffic

says. "It's changed my life dramatically — everyone who lives in a city should have one."

At around £1,500 to buy, £70 to insure and £3 a week to run, the scooter should be just another household utensil, claims Honda's Graham Sanderson. "It should be as well as, not instead of a car," he says. "Commuters spend hundreds of pounds a year on rail tickets too, and at the end of the year have nothing to show for it."

Safety can still deter many attracted to the mobility of a motorbike. But

automatic bikes ("twist and go's") and improved compulsory basic training have made driving two wheelers easier and safer. Of all the categories for which the Government set casualty reduction targets six years ago, only motorcyclists met their target.

But despite their positive effects on road safety, congestion and pollution riders are still largely ignored by politicians. In the Government's Transport Green Paper last April motorbikes were mentioned just twice. But with toll charges on driving into congested areas looming,

riders will want to be taken more seriously, says Dr Jeremy Vanke, head of public policy at the RAC.

Bristol became the first city last year to allow motorbikes to use bus lanes. Some retailers reported a subsequent 25 per cent increase in scooter sales. Despite bus drivers' concerns, there have been no accidents and its success has attracted inquiries from local authorities in Norwich and Norfolk, and Lothian in Scotland.

Like many newcomers to scooters, customers of Streetbike Motorcycles in Dudley, West Midlands, say apart from the economics, riding them is also fun. The director of Streetbike, Gary Marshall, says: "It's been seen as a way of bringing the enjoyment back into driving."

Richard Arturo, director of property developers Urban Spaces in southeast London, bought a Piaggio Sfera 80cc three months ago and says the word scooter sums up the experience. "It's all about swooning round the city on a bike that feels like a toy. It's easy, light, clean; you can wear a suit on them and they are fun. I would never think of driving a big bike again."

On two wheels, pages 3, 12

SCOOTER FACTS

SALES of scooters in Britain are up almost 40 per cent on last year. So far 4,000 have been sold compared with 2,800 for the whole of 1995.

DURING their heyday in the late 1950s, up to 100,000 scooters a year were sold. Sales declined with the rise of the small car Lambretta, the market leader, closed its last factory in 1972. Sales then picked up again during the 1980s.

THE FIRST 50cc scooter on the market was the front-wheel-drive Velo-Solex, manufactured in France in the late 1940s. The first sold in Britain was a Vespa in 1948.

THIS YEAR is the 50th anniversary of the Vespa, Italian for "wasp" it was designed by Enrico Piaggio who wanted to provide "instant mobility for the masses" after the Second World War.

PRICES start at around £1,100 and go up to just under £3,000 for a luxury model.

TOP-SELLING scooters are the Honda Maggio Typhoon 50cc, and 125cc and the Yamaha SR 125cc.

STIRLING Moss, Bono of U2 and Tom Conran all own scooters.

A SURE sign that times do not change: in 1965 it was reported that nearly three-quarters of Britain's one million scooter and moped owners used them to save time and fares when commuting.

THERE are an estimated 55,000 scooter riders in Britain today. About 1,000 enthusiasts regularly take part in rallies.

SCOOTERING magazine is to produce a special supplement with the road collector, including road tests of the newest scooters on the market.

On two wheels, pages 3, 12

Despite expensive car alarms and immobilising systems, UK car theft remains the worst in Europe.

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Lines open this Saturday and Sunday from 10am-4pm.
Monday-Friday from 9:30am-6pm.
For more details on Marriott Leisure Breaks see ITV Teletext on Page 397

The Government's fight against Brussels over VAT on bridge-crossing could backfire because of its own policies

Rotten toll of privatisation

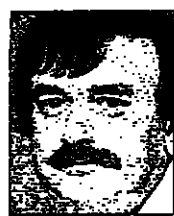
A lorry driver incandescent with rage is a sight worth seeing, provided his ire is not directed at you. The notion that only Italians and other Mediterranean types roll their eyes, wave their arms and generally behave as if close to meltdown is soon dispelled once you corner a couple of British truckers and start feeding in key words.

Caravans is one subject that will get them going. The tachograph is another. BMW drivers will also do it. But the subject that guarantees an instant rise in temperature is bridge tolls. Mention them and you have lit the blue touch-paper.

The latest cause of distress is a proposal from Brussels that we should charge VAT on bridge tolls. Brussels loves VAT, which as you know is a tax collected free of charge by businesses and other ordinary mortals (including me) on behalf of the government. The EU argues that a toll bridge is a business like any other, rather than a public service, as the Government claims.

The matter is now going to the European Court and the Govern-

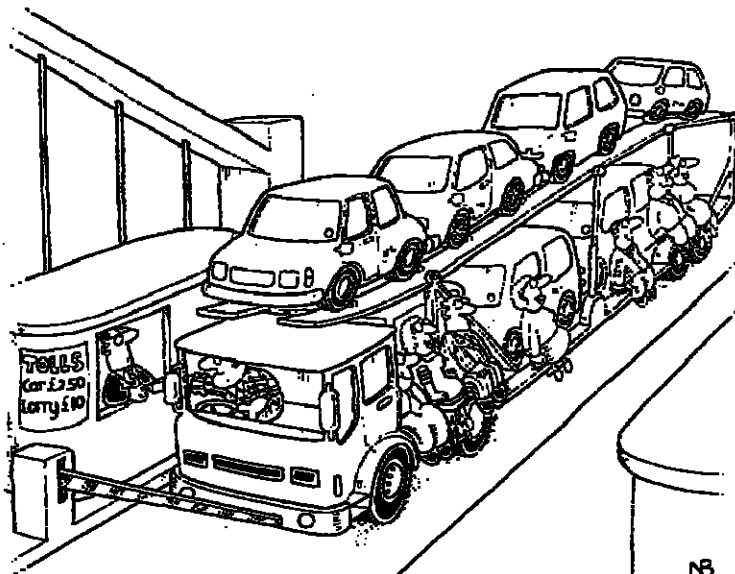
DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

ment is right to take it there. One of the crossings involved is that over the River Severn into Wales, which now consists of two bridges.

The present tolls on this crossing are nearly as daft as the ones on the Skye Bridge. Cars pay £3.80, which is more than enough, but not completely outrageous given that it covers both directions. But lorries have to pay £11.50 for the return trip. Adding VAT would make it £13.51. Lorry drivers I spoke to this week



British Government risks being hoist by its own petard.

If the Severn bridges had been built by the Government, it would be a simple matter to argue that they are a public service. Just like any other road. But this is not the case. A private company owns both the crossings and is allowed to charge tolls for a fixed number of years.

This makes the bridges part of a commercial business, arguably subject to VAT. In which case, there are far wider implications. For is not the Government at present keenly researching ways and means of charging tolls on motorways? Indeed it is.

So far there has been no mention of VAT in the calculations. But if the European Court rules that a bridge run by a private company must have its tolls subject to VAT, I see no difference between that and a motorway stretch run by a private company that charges a toll.

And what about schemes such as the Birmingham northern relief road, which involves 'shadow tolls'? This plan would have the road built by a private company which, instead of charging each vehicle, is paid a toll by the Government based on the number of vehicles using the road.

Is this a private business? If so, we could be faced with the Government paying VAT to the company and the company handing it back to the Customs and Excise. It's enough to make you incandescent with rage.

Vaughan Freeman on the pick of past and planned designs shown by a new study

Cars we want, we won't get

THE FUTURE

Carless city centres, a clampdown to get petrol-driven cars off the road, and an age of smaller, 'greener' high-tech cars driven by older motorists, is the tomorrow's world vision of motoring drawn up in a new report published this week.

Within 20 years electric and gas-powered vehicles will be common, particularly among public-service fleets such as buses, it forecasts. Many city centres will ban cars completely, and in other areas only fume-free cars, such as those that are battery-powered, will be allowed anywhere near town boundaries.

Cars, such as the 10ft-long Mini-sized Ford Ka, launched later this year, and the Vauxhall Maxx concept-car, will get ever smaller.

Despite their minuscule proportions however, such cars will be vital in a world in which up to 30 million cars, as opposed to today's 20million, will be sharing our roads — and they will have all the comfort and equipment once only associated with larger limousines.

They will routinely feature advanced technology in their cabins, including radar-controlled collision avoidance systems and infra-red sensors to make motoring at night and in fog much safer.

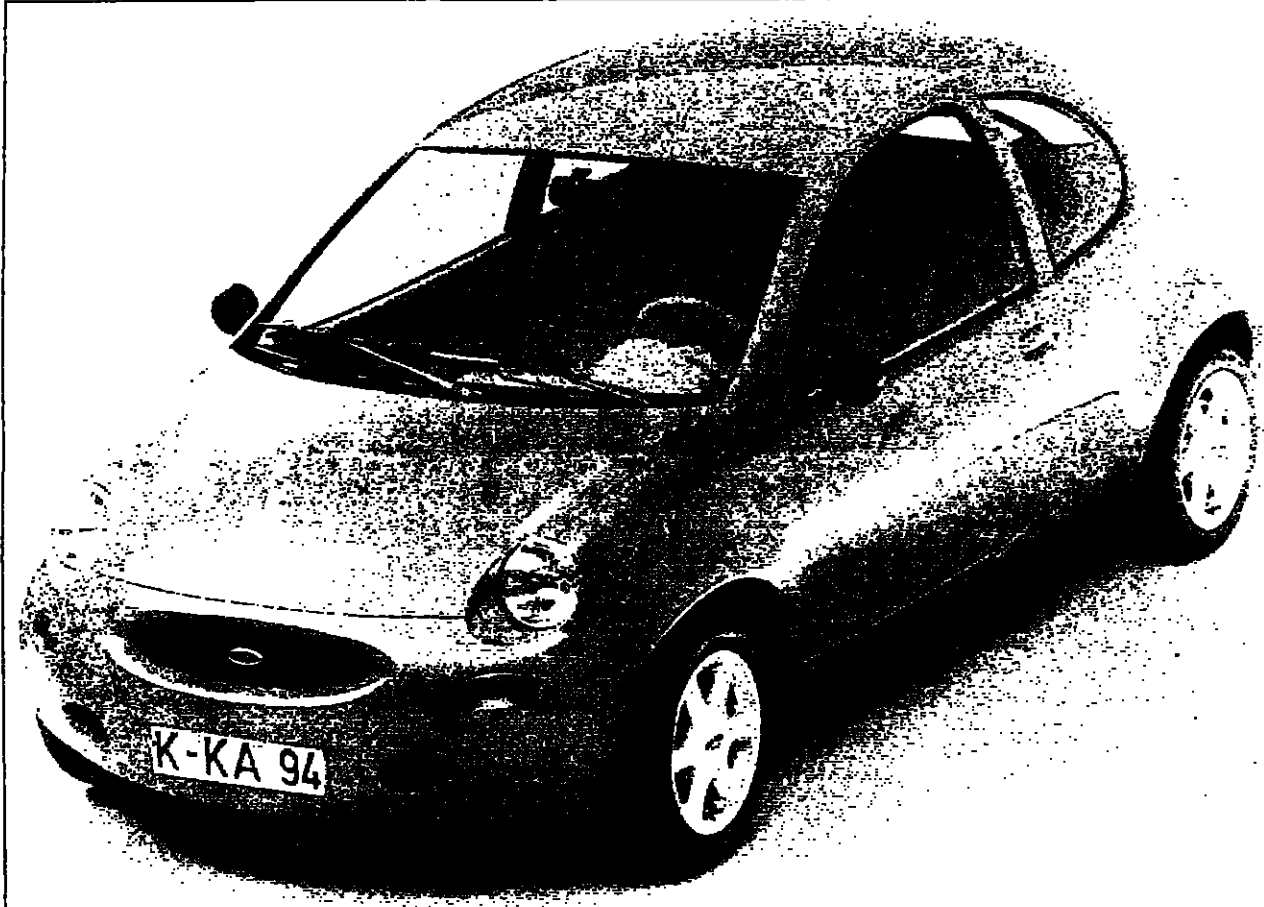
The report, by Warranty Holdings Group, the UK's largest supplier of used-vehicle breakdown warranty programmes for leading car manufacturers, sought the opinions of leading figures in the motor industry worldwide.

Warranty Holdings Group managing director Peter Head says: "Around 2015 will be a turning point in the history of the car. We will be on the verge of a new age of motoring, in which electric and other alternatively powered vehicles are beginning to make an impact."

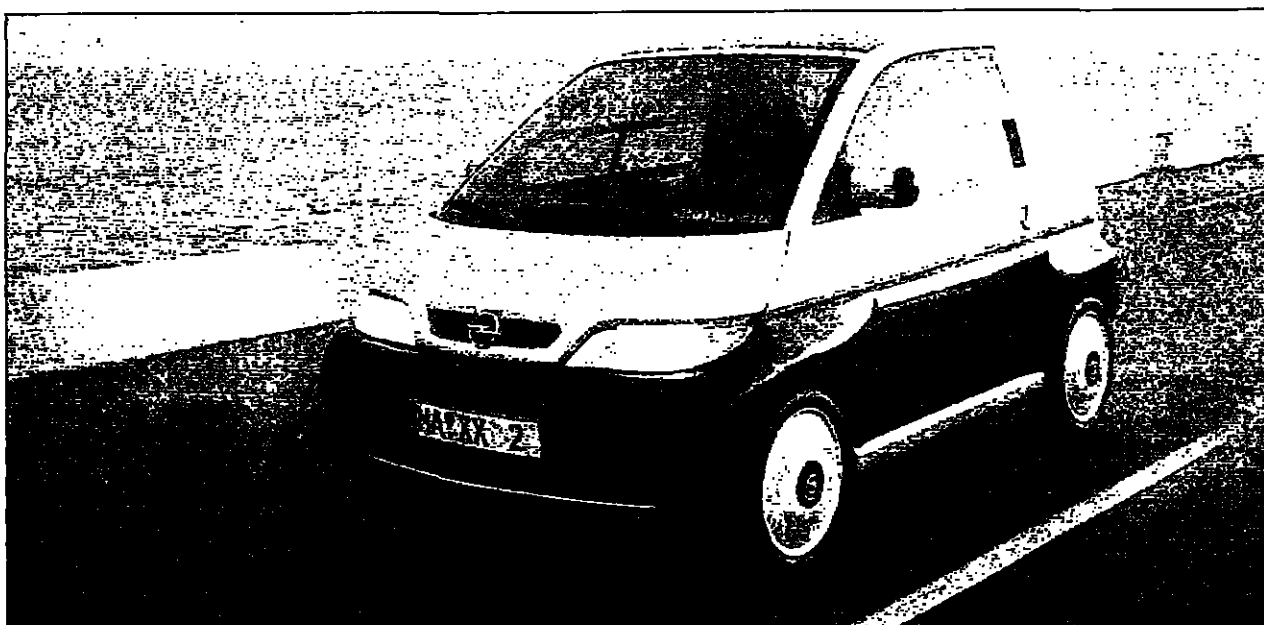
"You simply won't be able to take a large gas-guzzler into the centre of most big cities, so designers will be coming up with alternative vehicles which get around the problem. Consequently, we'll see a mixture of smaller petrol-driven, electric and hybrid vehicles on the road, although a highly fuel-efficient petrol engine will be the most common form of propulsion."

"The car of tomorrow will be equipped with a host of high-tech navigational, entertainment and safety aids. It will be quieter and more comfortable than the car of today, with a higher degree of specification and finish."

Male dominance will de-



Mini and micro-sized vehicles such as the 10ft-long Ford Ka, launched later this year, will herald the revolution



Vauxhall is also pursuing the trend with its Maxx concept car, but far more radical vehicles are expected to emerge

crease. The field of car design, traditionally a male preserve, will see a growth in the number of female designers, resulting in subtle but significant influences which will contribute towards a friendlier, more practical and less macho image for the car."

Professor Garel Rhys of the Cardiff Business School, says in the report: "Engine fuel injection systems will be far more frugal than anything that exists at the moment. It will be like putting a pipette of petrol into the cylinders, rather

than just throwing it in by the bucket-load, which is almost what we do at the moment when you compare it with what could be possible."

While petrol cars become more efficient and less polluting, electric cars will evolve for use in areas where traffic is more dense, says Ken Greenley, head of transportation design at London's Royal College of Art: "At 70mph on the highway, the average petrol car is pretty efficient. Where it is useless is when it is stuck in a traffic jam or ticking

over at traffic lights. The criticism of electric motors is that they only have a range of about 100 miles and then they need to be recharged."

"But the average mileage of a London taxi is only 60 to 70 miles a day. Most public service and delivery vehicles within the M25 could become electric."

The way cars are designed will also change, says Greenley, with more women expected to come into the male-dominated world of car design: "I think there are

certain sensitivities that are missing from cars, the evolution of shapes and designs may have been exhausted by the male design fraternity. But you're not going to get a 'girly' car. That route has been tried by men and it certainly doesn't work."

Designs will change as drivers change. The report says that demographic studies predict that motorists will live longer, stay healthy and driving for longer.

On top of this, the generation of older drivers will have the spare cash to buy cars that are capable of carrying their golf clubs and bicycles; but cars will need to be designed so that such things can be loaded with ease into vehicles which are no larger than the micro cars of today.

While steel will dominate car construction, the use of other materials such as aluminium and magnesium for strength and lightness, will grow. For those people who do buy more environmentally friendly cars, the perks, as well as a clean conscience and cleaner air, could include preferential tax rates.

DREAM ON

E-type top of great cars poll

ACTRESSES and bishops have, it seems, more in common than dubious music-hall jokes and saucy seaside postcards. Both love cars, and often it is the same ones that excite their interest.

Actress Fiona Fullerton and his Grace the Bishop of Sodor and Man, Noel DeBroy Jones, might move in different circles, but they share a keen interest in cars. Both are enamoured of that icon of luxury motoring, the Rolls-Royce, as the car they would most like to own.

They both agree that the epitome of automotive beauty is embodied in the classically English lines of a Jaguar. For now the Bishop makes do with a Peugeot, while Fiona Fullerton has a claret-red Jaguar XJ6.

Roads minister John Watts (usually in a black Jaguar XJS), actress Jenny Seagrove (a Mercedes-Benz 190E), and Barbican Centre director John Tusa share the dream of a sensational Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing SL.

Junior Transport Minister John Bowis drives a humble Vauxhall Cavalier, but his dream car is the new Aston Martin DB7, and the Lamborghini Countach from Italy the design he most admires. The Italian connec-



Fiona Fullerton and the Bishop of Sodor and Man

tion is strong for his predecessor, Steven Norris, usually seen the wheel of a Jaguar, but who most admires the Ferrari. Performance is also a key factor in the choice of his favourite car of all time, the Bentley Turbo R.

THE WARRANTY Holdings Group survey found that Formula One driver David Coulthard's unlikely first vehicle was a Mercedes 508 diesel van, while the Bishop of Rochester first took to the road at the wheel of an MG Midget sports car, although he now has a car more usually associated with men of the cloth — a Rover saloon.

Designer Sir Terence Conran, whose own cars include a black Porsche 911, and a yellow Renault Twingo, first drove a Ford Thames van. Sir Terence cannot decide whether he would most like to own a VW Beetle or the Porsche 911, "two cars at opposite ends of the price spectrum, but united by the same designer".

Among 300 people questioned, the Jaguar E-Type was acclaimed as the most popular car design of all time. Second was the Mercedes-Benz Gull-Wing, followed by the Citroën DS saloon.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● London
M1 junction 2 (A1, Hendon) slip road flyovers connecting the M1 and the A1 closed for long-term emergency repairs.

A4 Chiswick; major roadworks on the Great West Road with traffic down to two lanes during the day and a single lane overnight between the end of the M4 elevated section and Sutton Court Road.

A223 Orpington; major roadworks by the war memorial with various restrictions in operation. No entry to Sevenoaks Road from the roundabout.

A217 Wandsworth; roadworks at the roundabout on the south of Wandsworth Bridge. Delays on all approaches.

● South East
M4 junctions 12-14; overnight lane closures both ways, down to a single lane at times.

A4010 Princes Risborough; major roadworks at the junction with Duke Street, Longwick Road, The Aylesbury Road, and New Road with temporary lights.

A420 Cumnor Hill; off-peak lane closures in both directions with a 40mph speed restriction.

M20 junction 8; roadworks with one lane closed.

A259 Folkestone; width restrictions on Canterbury Road.

M25 junctions 6-10; major widening work between Godstone and the A3, with restrictions and contraflows.

● South West
M5 junctions 17-20; contraflow between Bristol West and Clevedon with a 50mph speed limit over the Avonmouth Bridge.

A38 Gloucester; major roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout. Regular delays.

A38 West Huntspill; temporary lights will cause long delays on Bleak Bridge. Major delays on the August 19.

A3027 Taunton; temporary lights on North Street.

A3102 Swindon; roadworks at the Mannington roundabout. Lane closure on the approaches from Great Western Way and Wootton Bassett Road.

● Midlands and East Anglia
A632 Near Chesterfield; roadworks on Langwith Road at Boleover Lane.

A516 Derby; single lane off-peak between Manor Hospital and A511 Kingsway, with the road closed on Sunday.

A6 Leicester; roadworks on London Road between Mayfield Road Island and Stoughton.

A38 Outside Burton; contraflow between Bransford and Barton, with diversions.

A46 Kenilworth bypass; major work near the A429 and B4115 roundabout, with contraflow, speed restrictions and lane closures.

A4123 Oldbury; off-peak lane closures during the day at Birchfield Island and on Pound Road.

● North
M6 junctions 20-21A; three narrow lanes in both directions near the Thelwell Viaduct, with some slip roads reduced to a single lane.

A630 Sheffield City Centre; contraflow on the Parkway.

A167M Newcastle; roadworks on central motorway between Jesmond Road and the New Bridge Street roundabout.

A182 Washington Highway closed at the Sunderland Highway interchange. Diversions.

M1 junction 47; major roadworks with lane closures around the Leeds Junction.

● Wales
A470 Llyswen; temporary lights at Llanged Hall.

A550 Between Woodbank and Queensferry; narrow lanes with a 40mph speed limit. Delays.

A4051 Newport; lane closures between M4 junction 26 and Woodlands roundabout. Overnight junction closures with diversions. Delays.

A472 Portpool; contraflow between Portpool and the Heron roundabout. Delays.

M4 junctions 23A-24; lane closures and 40mph speed limit between the Major and Newport junctions. Delays.

M4 junctions 34-35; contraflow with a 50mph speed limit between the Merkin and Penconed junctions. Delays.

● Scotland
A90 Aberdeen; restrictions on the roundabout either side of the Bridge of Dee.

A90 Kingsway; contraflow between Myre Kirk Road and Coupar Angus Road.

A92 Dundee; lane closures southbound on the Tay Road Bridge. Delays at peak periods.

A8 Edinburgh City Centre; Princes Street closed eastbound to all private vehicles. Diversions via South Charlotte Street, Queen Street and York Place for all other vehicles.

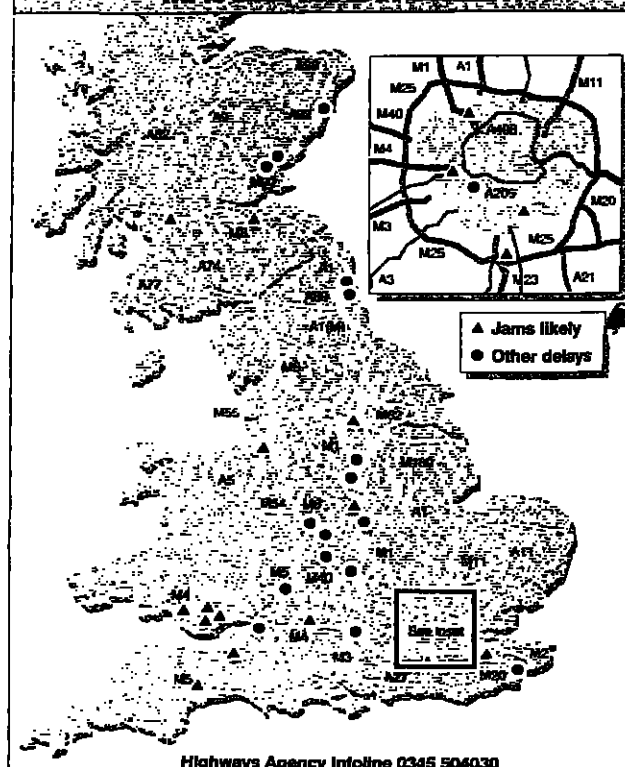
M8 junction 15; down to two lanes westbound at the Townhead junction. Restrictions eastbound.

A22 Downpatrick; Old Belfast Road closed from Strangford Road to Quoile Road. Diversions.

A49 Downpatrick; temporary lights on Magheraknock Road on the Lisburn side of Martin's Quarry.

A2 Ballykelly; temporary lights on Main Street.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Highways Agency Infoline 0345 304030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Endurance fun

If you fancy driving across Europe through Syria, Jordan, Israel, Egypt and on to Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa then now is the time to sign up for the London-Cairo-Cape Town Reliability Trial and Adventure Drive. The event, to be held in June and July 1996, promises to be one of the greatest motoring adventures yet. It is being organised by John Brown, the man behind LE JOC, the Land's End to John O'Groats classic car trial, and Fred Gallagher, three times winner of the challenging East African Safari. The journey is expected to take 32 days. Details from: 01836 833505.

Big Suzi

Suzuki's largest passenger car yet, the Baleno saloon, has been given a facelift and a new 1.8-litre aluminium engine. Standard specification includes anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, central locking, twin airbags, electric windows and mirrors and power steering. Its on-the-road price is £12,020.

Green meanie

Greenpeace last week challenged the motor industry to pay more attention to the environment by unveiling its own version of Renault's Twingo, one of the continent's most popular small cars. In the Twingo Small (Small Intelligent Light Efficient), a supercharged two-cylinder engine of just 360cc replaces the Renault 1.24-litre unit and is claimed to deliver 75-88mpg against the 42mpg average of the production car. Corin Millais, of Greenpeace UK, said of the specially commissioned car: "If Greenpeace has been able to develop this technology, why can't the car industry, with all its expertise and experience?"

Minor fortune

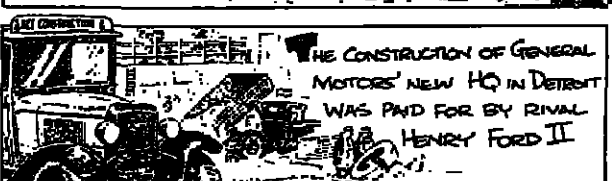
Mike Fletcher, who owns a 1949 convertible which he calls "the best Morris Minor in the world", paid £25,975 for five drawings of the car by its designer Sir Alec Issigonis on Thursday. They were among 11 designs for the Minor and the Mini sold at Christie's for a total of £33,925.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

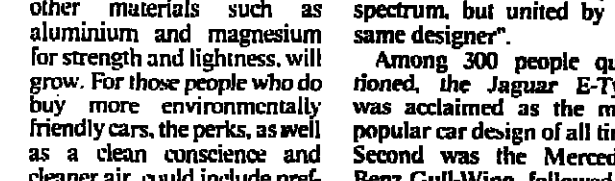
MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST CIRCUIT. ALTHOUGH REGULATIONS RESTRICT AVERAGE SPEEDS TO ONLY 235 M.P.H., UNTIL 1950 ESTABLISHED CARS WERE FORBIDDEN TO DRIVE AT MORE THAN 30 M.P.H.



THE DELAUNEY-BELLEVILLE LIMOUSINE BUILT FOR TEACH NICHOLAS II IN 1910 HAD NO POWER THAN EIGHT FOOT PEDALS.



THE CONSTRUCTION OF GENERAL MOTORS' NEW HQ IN DETROIT WAS PAID FOR BY RIVAL HENRY FORD II.



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

New biker Linda Galloway beats the boys at their own game on the best of today's mid-range machines

Girl on a motorbike fires up



The Bandit, top, was hard to part with. The Ducati even harder

I always envied the boys next door. They had motorbikes, Suzuki 50s, and whenever my mother was out I used to climb over the wall and beg them to let me ride. But if I got caught I was in for at least a few days' grounding. Now that the threat of parental censure has receded, I have won my two-wheeled freedom, leathers and all.

Fed up with parking fines and garage fees, high road tax, maintenance charges and, most of all, traffic congestion and frayed city tempers, more and more commuters are taking to motorbikes. It is a brave move, away from the protection and comforts of modern cars.

Choosing to be a biker also means no lifts home for friends and no big impulse purchases. You learn to travel light and to wear leather with attitude; it really is the best bet for protection, and for women it has another advantage: in helmet and leathers you are anonymous.

What said, being a "girl on a bike" can single you out for attention, but in my experience this has been good-humoured envy from men in cars, especially if you're on something powerful. On the whole, the relationship between motorist and biker is not healthy, and irritation has a lot to do with it judging by the murderous looks I've received when nipping through gridlocked intersections.

I enrolled at a rider-training centre to learn as much as I could about safe, defensive riding — the fact that a doctor friend calls

motorcyclists "organ donors" influenced my choice. I received my Compulsory Basic Training (CBT) certificate after eight hours of tuition in the middle of a -4C freeze — a rude re-introduction to both the hazards and the drawbacks of biking. I then did a Road-Rider course — 12 hours of on and off-road tuition on a hired 125cc bike, with unlimited refresher lessons.

I spread my lessons over several weeks and met many would-be bikers. Some had provisional licences about to expire, others had always meant to but never got round to it, a few were enjoying gift-lessons and one wanted to work as a motorcycle courier.

My first purchase was a pair of insulated riding gloves at £30. A helmet was next: the answer to the question "how much should I spend?" is invariably "how much do you value your head?" Prices range from about £35 for a cheap open-face nut-cracker, there is no upper limit for full-face optimum protection, but £300 is at the expensive end for normal road use.

Money spent on protective clothing which could save your life is well spent. Wearing biking leathers reinforced with body armour may sound excessive, but padded elbows, shins and kidneys are more likely to emerge bruised than battered after a high-speed tumble.

In choosing the machine, cost and colour are not the only factors: looks must be weighed up against attractiveness to thieves, particularly in cities. Female riders — and tiny men — are confronted with height



The Virago: fine name for woman's publisher, but not a woman's bike: the ergonomics are poor and the chopper styling lacks street-cred

and weight handicaps that can rule out even some under-250cc bikes.

Yamaha's Virago 535 is a pseudo-chopper remake with Harley lookalike chrome styling. The *Born to be Wild* look impresses non-bikers but has little street-cred. It's born to be mild, really: the middle sister in a family of 250 and 1100cc models, sometimes dismissively referred to as a "girl's bike". I felt at a distinct weight-disadvantage, with the wind beating against my chest and threatening to blow me right off while circling the M25. I felt ambivalent about this motorcycle: I enjoyed the ride but the look was not for me.

The Suzuki GSF N600 Bandit, was more like it, combining retro styling (chrome instruments, engine detail and exhaust) with performance looks. With almost-perfect weight distribution for female riders and slightly raised handlebars, the Bandit is a more challenging ride than the Virago, with that characteristic "Suze" whine in the upper rev register. I had difficulty parting with it.

More intimidating, both in looks and design, was Kawasaki's ZX6R Ninja. Its high-intensity performance styling and racing colours shriek "boy-racer". With the added girth of the fairing it felt heavy and less manoeuvrable in slow traffic, but on the motorway it danced on

tip-toe, light as a feather and super-responsive. The Ninja was also my introduction to Britain's busy motorcycle-theft industry. After three days' custodianship, someone tried to hot-wire it outside my home — which says more about it than I ever could.

The Honda CBR600F is similarly prone to disappearing. Lesson learnt, I parked it out of harm's way. I found it quiet and well-behaved but quite claustrophobic in the city, with most of the power stacked at the top end; a long and winding country road is required to unleash it. And then it lives up to its

high-performance looks and goes and goes and goes.

I saved the best (but not the most expensive) for last: the Ducati 600 Monster's design, styling and performance are irresistible. It's the perfect bike, compact, clean looks, evenly distributed weight and power, no excess paint or panelling and the cutest twin-exhaust behind you've ever seen. We bonded instantly on an early-morning jaunt from Northampton and it had to be prized out of my hands after a week-long love affair.

I've made the switch from four to two wheels, painlessly so far, although the lingo still escapes me. But please don't tell my mother.

Easy rider, racer or retro: how they rate

VIRAGO 535

Manufacturer: Yamaha
Displacement: 535cc
Transmission: 5-speed shaft-drive
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 13.5 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £4,499
Pose rating: poor man's Harley-Davidson. 5/10

N600 BANDIT

Manufacturer: Suzuki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed constant mesh
Dry weight: 196kg
Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres
Fuel economy: 45 miles per gallon
Price: £4,399
Pose rating: retro styling attracts attention. 7/10

NINJA ZX-6R

Manufacturer: Kawasaki
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed x-ring chain
Dry weight: 182kg
Fuel tank capacity: 18 litres
Fuel economy: 50 miles per gallon
Price: £7,195
Pose rating: boy-racer's go-faster paintwork. 4/10

CBR600F

Manufacturer: Honda
Displacement: 599cc
Transmission: 6-speed
Dry weight: 185kg
Fuel tank capacity: 17 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,995
Pose rating: A racy ride. Impresses Barry Sheene wannabes. 7/10

600 MONSTER

Manufacturer: Ducati
Displacement: 583cc
Transmission: 5-speed
Dry weight: 175kg
Fuel tank capacity: 16.5 litres
Fuel economy: 40-45 miles per gallon
Price: £6,000
Pose rating: She's a babe. Loved by cognoscenti and bystanders alike. 10/10

Novices get the feeling of free-wheeling

Kevin Eason and colleagues learn how little wheels beat the traffic

You know that bloke on a scooter you made a rude gesture at the other day: the little guy with the black helmet? He came through your inside at the lights and screamed off into the distance? Well, I confess that was me.

I discovered the joys of the scooter in cities so clogged with cars that the traffic looks as though it is permanently parked down the length of the road instead of commuting.

It took a couple of days to get used to the feeling, but once I was attuned to putting my feet up and — as Beryl Reid so aptly put it in *The Killing of Sister George* — feeling 125cc throbbing between my legs, there was nothing to beat my Piaggio Sfera for getting in and out of work.

I weaved in and out of the traffic at the lights. I could sprint away from everything but the odd Ferrari and in five days of travelling, I spent just over a fiver on petrol.

But before you consider joining the rush to two wheels in a haze of nostalgia for the Lambretta, remember some important facts. You fall off scooters, so you learn to fix car drivers at junctions with a

steely gaze as if hypnotising them into staying where they are. Wear the appropriate gear — leather trousers, are not only fetching, they avoid skinned knees and keep thighs from feeling as though they have been deep frozen.

Practise riding, particularly starting and stopping, which are the crisis moments in every scooterist's life.

And, as a fashion note, take some curling tongs to work because those helmets just take all the life and shape out of your hair.

To test the new wave of scooters, Car 96 recruited two novices: Jennai Cox, a commuter from South London, took our Suzuki AP50, while Lindsay Maggs, intrepid photographer and resident of Southend, Essex tried a Piaggio Typhoon 50cc.

NEVER having ridden a motorbike before, I took my compulsory basic training on the Suzuki AP50, which is an automatic, writes Jennai Cox. Not having to concentrate on gear changes or worry about stalling meant I got the hang of driving confidently within half an hour. Whizzing round the car park of the training



Novice Jennai Cox with, from left, the Suzuki AP50 and the 50cc and 125cc Piaggios

centre I felt like a fly, the scooter is so easy to manoeuvre.

The first encounter with traffic was a little scary. Without the security of a wind-screen or doors I felt very vulnerable and was much more aware of what was happening on the road.

But by the time I had to drive home I was happy doing 35mph (the maximum speed is about 40mph), and everything riders say about scooters being fun is true. I can't wait to get one of my own.

MY NOVICE status must have shone out as I rode the

Piaggio scooter for the first time, writes Lindsay Maggs. A police car followed me for five miles through London's Friday-night rush hour, and the driver was surprised when I told him I was riding to Southend. He asked why I was not wearing gloves.

Two hours later I arrived

home, cold but happy that I had sat out the journey at a top speed of 40mph, using only half a tank of petrol.

There is very little that can go wrong. The headlights turn on and off automatically, and to start the bike the front brake must be held in when the electronic starter button is pressed.

It's so simple, but the riding position on the Piaggio 50cc is very upright — hardly ideal for long distances, as the wind hits with direct force. Under the seat there is space for a crash helmet or a bag but not both.

Steering the machine is fine, apart from on really sharp corners: this demands practice because the wheels are so small that the bike initially feels unsteady. Putting the bike on the centre stand also requires a certain technique. Pushing the stand firmly down into the ground makes the bike gently lift itself up.

My return to London took only one and a half hours and cost £1.59 for petrol. At some points the lack of acceleration made the bike vulnerable, particularly when traffic merged from the right slip road into the centre lane. For town driving it would be hard to match, but for longer distances I would choose something more powerful.

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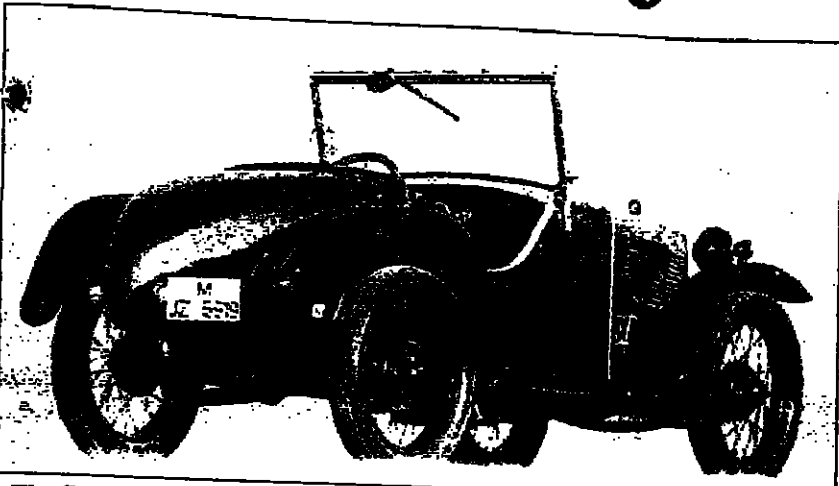


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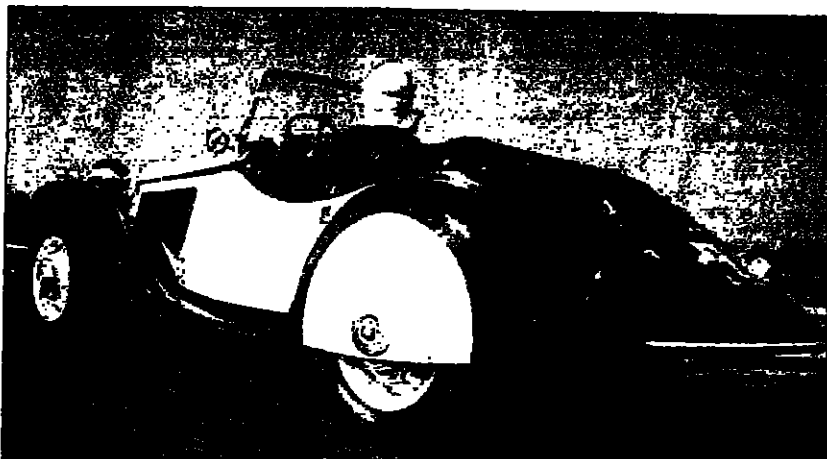
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BMW stars in the leading US concours event in the year it starts making cars there, reports Eric Dymock

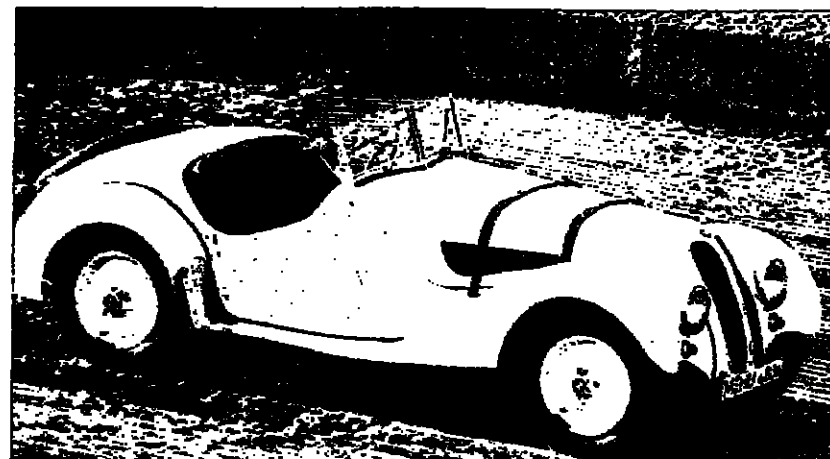
Germany invades America's glitterati



The first BMWs were based on Austin Sevens, but increasingly modified



The 315 rewrote sporting car design, with its soft springs and stiff chassis



The 328, one of the best 1930s sportscars, inspired Frazer-Nash to import it

Brooklands' old spirit survives among the warm palm beaches and coconut groves of California.

The Right Crowd and No Crowding, the Brooklands racetrack slogan from its opening in 1906 until its last chequered flag in 1939, has translated easily to America's Laguna Seca Raceway, which clings to the pine-fringed semi-desert off Highway 101, south of San Jose.

This is the home of Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance, the most glamorous annual display of historic cars in the United States and arguably in the world. Appropriately, in the year that BMW has started manufacturing cars in the United States, the German company is the Concours's featured marque.

Instead of the clipped vowels of aristocrats like Earl Howe, Prince Bira or Count Zborowski, who frequented the Brooklands paddock, this weekend will hear the drawl of rich, corporate America. Families like the Fords and the Firestones, who created America's motor industry, will talk cars with stars such as arch-enemy Paul Newman, who has his own racing team.

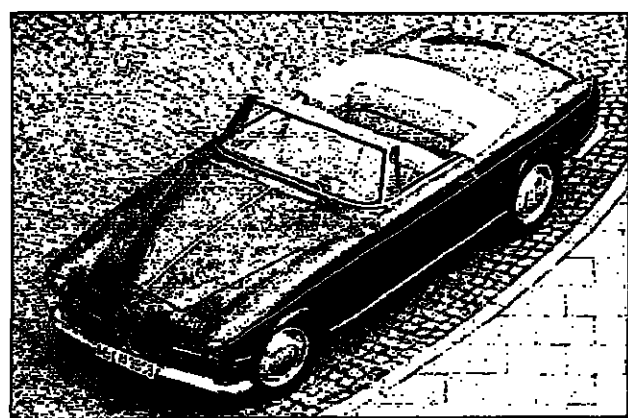
The Monterey Peninsula was the cradle of American sportscar racing, with machines roaring down the streets of elegant Pebble Beach in the 1940s. Now it is once again given over to cars: the annual parade on the 18th hole of Pebble Beach golf course is made up of cars in better condition than they were when they left the factory anything up to 90 years ago.

Americans tend to over-restore, adding chrome where there was none, burnishing anything burnishable, and polishing off the patina of age. The effect is often stunning but cloyingly sterile.

The standing quip among the veterans who turn up to watch is that the cars have lasted better than they have. Either way, both veteran and vintage will be elegantly arrayed between the exclusive Pebble Beach Lodge and a deep blue creek on the edge of the Pacific. As the sun burns off the mist that rolls in from the ocean and the tailored car-covers come off, the varnished wood and shining metal shimmer in the blinding light.

Amid all the splendours on display, one of the treasures brought over especially from BMW's Munich museum looks surprisingly modest, and bears more than a passing resemblance to a 1922 Austin Seven. BMW's fortunes were founded on a car conceived in secret in the billiard room of Herbert Austin's home at Lickey Grange, Bromsgrove, Birmingham.

BMW began making aeroplanes in 1911, but under the Treaty of Versailles it had to



BMW returned to roadsters with models like the 507

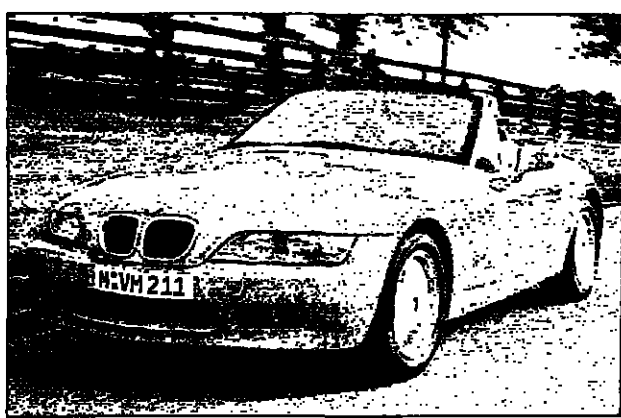
concentrate on motorcycles until 1928, when it bought the Dixi car factory in Eisenach.

Dixi made Austin Sevens under licence, starting with a batch of 50 cars built from British components. It agreed to make 2,000 a year, cheated and made 9,000, but it was still not enough to pay off the overdraft. BMW then took over. There were open two-seaters, four-seat touring cars, a two-door saloon, convertibles, and a delivery van. The 1930 BMW 3/15 Wartburg on show at Laguna Seca is a sporty version with an extra

three horsepower. This model gave BMW its first racing victory at the Nurburgring with German MG enthusiast Bobby Kohlrath.

BMW decided the little baby Austin was crude. It got the firm into cars, but component by component it was redesigned, with a smooth-running roller-bearing crankshaft and overhead valves for more power.

By 1932 the car was more BMW than Austin: the licensing agreement was ended, the



The roadster evolved into the Z3 used in Goldeneye

chassis strengthened, and a new engine introduced.

In the 1934 Alpine Trial, the BMW 315 rewrote the specification of the sporting car, which until then had stiff springs and a flexible chassis.

BMW introduced soft springs and a stiff chassis, transforming the handling and roadholding. It evolved into the 328, one of the finest sports cars of the 1930s. Frazer-Nash, which manufactured the archetypal British sports car, saw the writing on the wall and started importing them. BMW's astonishing engine

was developed by Bristol and provided Mike Hawthorn with the power to make his mark in the 1950s.

The 328 reached its apotheosis in 1939 and 1940, and the museum's roadsters at Laguna Seca include the trend-setting 1940 Mille Miglia car which inspired Sir William Lyons when he drew up the XK120 Jaguar of 1948. Spirited out of Germany in 1945, the Mille Miglia BMW was re-launched as a Frazer-Nash, and raced in Britain by Gilbert Tyrer, a Liverpool garage owner, in the 1950s. It was

restored as a BMW by Michael Bowler, founding editor of *Classic Car* magazine and returned to the BMW museum in the 1960s.

It has been back in Britain twice. It took part in the Ecurie Ecosse tour of Scotland in 1993 and reappeared for this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed. It is reunited with the newly-restored aluminium roadster BMWs commissioned by the NSKK, the National Socialist Motor Vehicle Corps. The bodies were built by the Italian Touring coachbuilder in 1940 and never raced again.

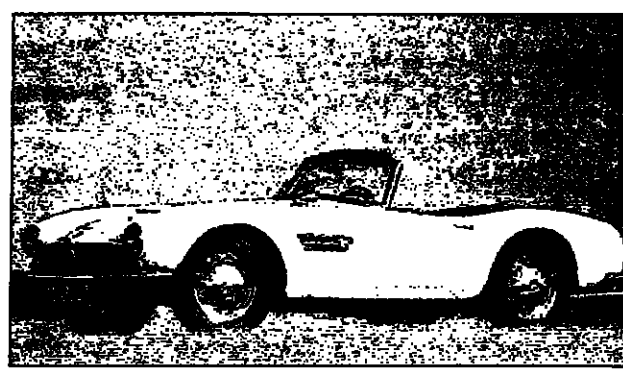
BMW returned to the roadster business in 1955 with the 507. It was a technical and artistic success but scarcely a commercial one. Only 252 were ever made. The 1986 Z1 was a technical masterpiece with a hot-dip galvanised frame and a plastic body, and although 8,000 were produced between 1988 and 1991 it too never achieved the success it deserved.

BMW is hoping for better things with the Z3, the roadster that started in the last James Bond epic. Built in BMW's American factory at Spartanburg, the 1.9-litre two-seater takes some styling fea-

tures from the 507 and will go on sale in Britain in competition with the MGF.

If concours fails to stir the blood, the racing at Laguna Seca just might. Historic racing is no less hectic because the cars are old, and no quarter is given just because

an old car is irreplaceable. Racing cars were crashed and overhauled constantly when they were new, so the original fabric is less important than a continuous history. A new chassis, new engine, and a new body does not change a car's identity.



BMW's 507 was a technical but not commercial success

The Pebble Beach concours is not just a show, reports Alan Copps. Its auctions are a celebrity chaser's dream

Cars of the stars for sale

Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance is glitzy, but the business part of the weekend is auctions. The cars for sale are every bit as rare, beautiful and well-connected as the examples simply for show.

There are two auctions: one by the local company, Rick Cole, is selling Elvis Presley's BMW; the other, Christie's major American auction of the year has a host of intriguing entries including the car that Gregory Peck fell in love with in 1962, a Bentley S2 Continental Flying Spur. Used only for "special outings and occasions" it has accumulated \$4,000 miles during his 34 years of ownership.

History is all with such cars and the amounts spent on service and maintenance are carefully detailed in the car's documents. The notes give an amusing hint that even the irritating motoring niggles, reporting: "The car's oil pressure is reading low but has recently been checked by a Rolls-Royce and Bentley specialist who confirms the gauge is not reading correctly."

Another Bentley S2 dating from 1962 was bought new by the actress Joan Fontaine and

has been owned by her ever since. In an auction which boasts a choice of 16 Rolls-Royces and is studded with half-million-dollar cars, the Bentleys have comparatively modest estimates of £13,000 to £19,000.

The serious money in the Christie's auction room will be chasing the 1949 Ferrari 166MM, one of only 25 made. It was second in the Mille Miglia, crashed while leading the Le Mans 24-hour race (its driver Pierre Louis Dreyfus used the pseudonym Ferret).

After the car was rebuilt, it went on to win the 24-hour race at Spa, soundly beating the Delages, which boasted engines twice the size of its 2-litre V12. That victory effectively founded the Ferrari racing legend.

This car, with the chassis number 0010M, was subsequently bought by Jim Kimberly, heir to the Kimberly Kleenex fortune and raced on the old Pebble Beach street circuit. In his other hands it scored a series of victories in American sportscar racing and then passed into the hands of collectors. Its restoration has been so complete that it won a first prize at the Pebble Beach Concours. It could go for £650,000.



Gregory Peck with his cherished 1961 Bentley Flying Spur, used for special outings

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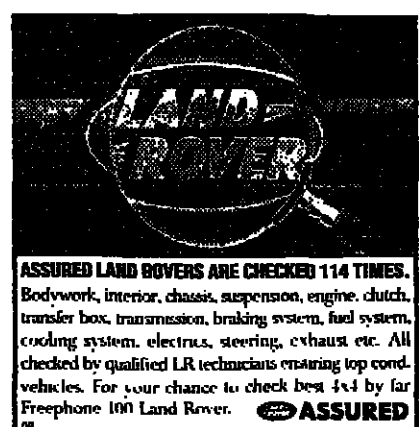
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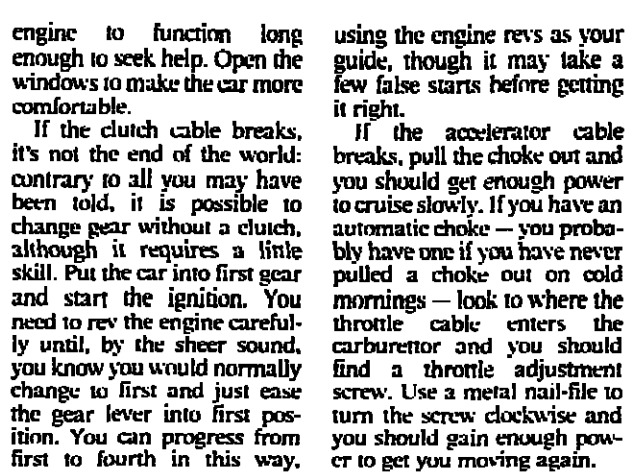
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50 CARS BETWEEN £9,000 & £15,000



LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TDI

Now six years old, Discovery is the baby Range Rover, cheaper, smaller, but just as effective off-road. Few ever get stuck into the muddy stuff as most are sold within the M25. Very desirable, the Discovery holds its price well. Insurance is high and the heavy car means fuel consumption not much better than 25-30mpg.

Rear cabin width 55

Overall height 75.6
36
37
40

Luggage capacity
seats up 55.9 cu ft
seats down 68.9 cu ft

Ground clearance 7.5

Wheelbase 107.5

Load height 26

All recommendations

INSURANCE: Thieves love four-wheel drive cars and insurance rates reflect this. Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1.5 litre 1990 Discovery cost a 22-year old male south London, with one year no claims, £1,894 a year fully comprehensive. A 31-year female pays £1,533. A 35-year old professional living in Winchester with full claims pays £205.

OVERALL:
An excellent off-roader, with ample space for privacy to buy and to the question is do you need it? Will a roomy or hatch do the job or the penalty of insurance, running costs? With a car, the "car-as-lifestyle" is often decisive.

MODEL	PRICE		
	Jul-96	Aug-96	Change
Rover 820 SI 4dr	11095	10595	-4.51
Nissan Maxima 3.0 V6 Cat Auto	10350	10295	-0.53
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	11450	11150	-2.62
Mazda 626 2.0 Estate	10750	10295	-4.26
Volvo 480 2.0 ES 3 dr	10395	10195	-1.92
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SPI 16V 5dr	10495	10095	-3.81
Renault Clio 1.6i 5dr	9550	9295	-2.67
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10350	10195	-1.45
Citroen Xantia 2.0i SX 5dr	9825	9295	-5.67
Chrysler Wrangler 4.0 3dr	12350	12150	-1.62
Saabu Legacy 2.0 GL Est	11750	11495	-2.17
Saab 900 2.0i S 5dr	12995	12795	-1.83
Renault Espace 2.0 5 dr	13350	13295	-0.41
Peugeot 405 GLX Estate	10095	9675	-4.16
Nissan 2000 SX 3dr	12895	13095	1.55
Toyota Cariba E Executive 5dr	11450	11095	-3.07
Suzuki Vitara JLX SE 3dr	9750	9895	0.56
Mitsubishi Galant V6 24V 4dr	10895	10850	-0.50
Hyundai Sonata 2.0 CDB Auto	9875	9850	-0.25
Cord Granada 2.0i Ghia Auto 4dr	11350	10950	-3.55
Audi 80 1.8 4dr	10450	10350	-0.97
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth 4dr	14195	14095	-0.70
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomat 5dr	12395	11950	-3.58
Rover 620 SI 4dr	10295	9825	-4.77
Renault Safrane 2.0 RD 5dr	11095	10795	-2.70
Peugeot 605 SLI 4dr	10850	10850	0.00
Nissan Serena 2.0 SLX 7st Est.	12295	12250	-0.37
Audi 80 2.0 4dr	10350	10250	-0.95
Citroen 2.0 2X 16V 3dr	9350	9125	-2.41
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXI 3dr	10395	10150	-2.35
Ford Escort RS 2000 3dr	10850	10450	-3.69
Honda Civic VTi 3dr	11150	11495	3.08
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	10195	9975	-2.18
Toyota Corolla 1.8 Executive 5dr	9950	9875	-0.75
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i Convertible	10195	9925	-2.65
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	10250	10095	-1.51
Mazda 323 1.8 GT (ABS) Fastback	10695	10750	1.33
Renault 19 1.6i 5dr	10350	10195	-1.45
Nissan Impreza 1.6i 5dr	10150	9525	-6.16
Vauxhall Calibra 16V 3dr	13295	13095	-1.50
Vauxhall Omega 2.0 16V CD 4dr Auto	12650	12095	-4.59
Citroen XM 2.0i Est.VSX Turbo	12895	12895	0.00
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL 3dr Independent	12995	12950	-0.35
Ford Escort Si Cabriolet	11295	10850	-3.94
Honda Accord 2.0 LS Coupe 2dr	12095	12250	1.28
Audi 100 2.0 E 4dr	12995	12795	-1.54
Mazda Xedos 6 2.0i 4dr	11895	11895	0.00
Mitsubishi Galant 4WD/4WS	12895	12795	-0.78
Rover 216 Cabriolet 2dr	11750	11595	-1.32
BMW 316i 4dr	12895	12550	-1.14

CAP
AN IRVING-CLOUD PUBLICATION

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecast prices
HD = hatchback **S = saloon** **P = pickup** **changes based on M-reg**
low mileage cars **Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research**

MORE THAN 15,000 motorists have bought personalised P-registration plates since the annual prefix changed on August 1. The total to August 9 represented a 25 per cent increase on the same period for N-prefix sales last year. Customers were able to reserve their plates a month before the registration change came into force.

The P-plate sales so far have generated £7 million revenue, taking the total for the sale of personalised plates to more than £220 million since the

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency first went into the business seven years ago.

Byron Roberts, the marketing director for DVLA Sale of Marks, reports: "More and more motorists of all types are enjoying choosing their own registration number, and we have now sold more than 440,000 personalised registrations through our scheme."

Prices for personal P-plates start at £399 and go up to £1,999. Information from the DVLA Registration Hotline 0181-200 6565.

PERFORMANCE CARS

2 L0LA Racing Cars, manufactured in '88 with Rock Engines
0181 458 5545, Red: NC

COSWORTH SAPPHERE
4x4
1990H, Black/Black leather, CD player, tractor, immobilizer,
www.csb.com, \$50,000

Ford F81
 £10,500
 01963 8565 044
 0973 204 523

MERCEDES

220CE Coupe E reg. 76K, 51K
 Cruise, Alarm, Stereo, £17,950
 0181 902 1830/0815656565

300SL 1983 1 bady owner, Thakur
 Green SS8 F8H M21 £13,950
 Tel 01722 8959737


190 D "r reg, Metabolic Reg, F8H
 PAS, CR, ABS, 100,000 - £10,495
 £2000+ "P" Silver, full dealer
 sales history, extime too many to
 mention, leather £10,495, Low
 Lane Car Sales 01132 583232

**1989(G) metallic
silver, very high
specification.
£35,000
0181 476 3542**

320SL
1995 Imperial red, cream
leather. 6,000 miles only. CD
player, 8 hole alloys, rear
seats, as new condition.
**£54,000
Day 01254 301731
Eve 01706 214541
Mobile 0831 444784**

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Forsch, so are we 100% of the
time. Contact: Francis Sannes
David Hobson or Malcolm
Short, Scrutons of Wilmshol
on 01625 832222. More-Sun

Call 02035 3516954

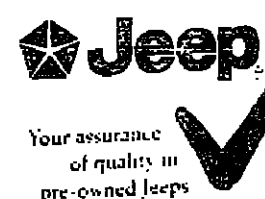
	What's in a name...	
SEC 161/17 AC	5/7	178,955
SEC 162 Dongs	5/6	178,955
SEC 163 AC Dongs	5/7	178,955
SEC 164 1/1 Cols	5/7	178,955
SEC 165 Cols	5/7	178,955
SEC 166 Cols	5/7	178,955
SEC 167 Cols	5/7	178,955
SEC 168 Cols	5/7	178,955
SEC 169 Cols	5/7	178,955
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With your help, our centenary search has unearthed more machines and created a mystery, says Tony Dawe

Shy models found with famous names

ADRIAN BROOKS

MOTOR CITY
COVENTRY
20th August to 1st September 1996

Proud owners are set to parade rare and beautiful machines built by well-known manufacturers

Sitting in a cornfield in Warwickshire, the splendid red 1920s coupe looks as if it is taking part in a publicity shoot for a remake of *Bonnie and Clyde*. It is in reality preparing for the celebration of one hundred years of the British motor industry.

The Standard Charleote, made in 1926 and the only one surviving, will feature in a parade of famous Coventry-made cars which will launch three days of festivities in the city at the end of this month.

The elegant motor, which is in perfect working order after much restoration, has come to light after Car 96 joined forces with the organisers of Motor in the City to hunt for models from the dozens of Coventry carmakers.

The search has turned up Culeys and Stoneleighs and provided proof, if not examples, of Ennys and Iden. The latest haul includes more familiar names: Standard and Siddeley; Alvis and Cooper — but less familiar models. The Charleote is owned and driven by Paul Newsome, whose family has earned its own place in Coventry's motoring history.

"On quiet straight country roads the car goes quite well and is reasonably lively, but on winding roads and in traffic it can be difficult," he says.

"The car has a centrally placed accelerator which means I have to concentrate harder. If it's raining, every time I put my foot on the pedal the windscreen wipers stop because they work by vacuum."

The Charleote was one of several stylish models built by Standard in the 1920s and named after Warwickshire towns. Its crafted badge and dashboard were typical of the care lavished on the models, but few were made and the company had more success with its cheaper models, the Standard Eight and Ten.

Newsome snapped up the car in 1961 because it dates from the year his father Sammy first won a franchise to sell Standard cars.



The sole surviving 1931 Standard Charleote coupé poses ready for the cavalcade. The car was one of several stylish models built by the Coventry carmaker in the 1920s and named after local towns

Newsome senior was himself a Coventry carmaker in the early 1920s, producing light cars with Coventry Climax engines. "Only a handful were made because there were dozens of people producing similar cars, so he set up the dealership instead," his son says. He did however produce a racing version called the Warwick for a 500-mile race at Brooklands but it performed poorly and that enterprise died as well. Both Cooper and Warwick feature in the list of Coventry-made models which can no longer be traced.

John Siddeley, another famous Coventry carmaker, features prominently in the collection of Nigel Bradshaw of Lytham St Anne's. Siddeley founded the Siddeley Auto Car Company in 1902. The company was soon taken over by Wolseley, but cars with the

Siddeley name were made for a couple of years and one is owned and driven by Bradshaw.

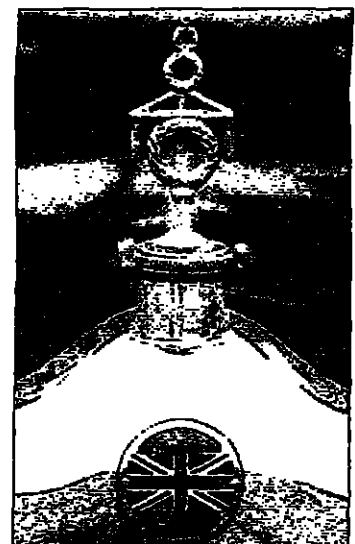
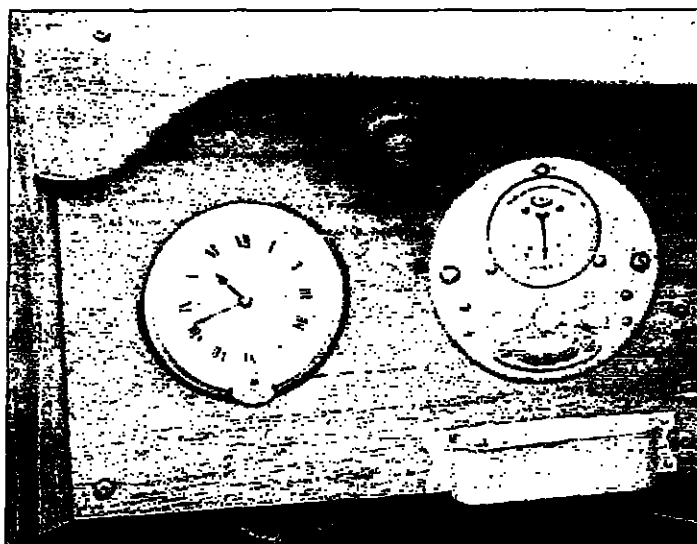
It was miles ahead of its day, he says, "with a belt-driven fan, gearbox and engine linked together and overhead inlet valves with side exhausts".

After the Wolseley takeover Siddeley joined the company founded by Captain Deasy and added his initials to the name of a model which Bradshaw also owns. Siddeley-Deasy cars were produced until a merger with Armstrong Whitworth of Newcastle led to the famous Armstrong Siddeley marque.

"My 1910 Deasy JDS is the only one which survives and has been in my family for fifty years," Bradshaw says. "It is used regularly, has been from John O'Groats to

Lands End and abroad. It's a very original car, a four-seat 12hp tourer with a radiator on the bulkhead and a bonnet shape which earned it the nickname of Jack Siddeley's coffin."

Bradshaw and his son Jonathan will be driving the two cars in the Coventry Collection parade on Friday August 30 and one man who hopes to join them is John Mauer of Beccles, Suffolk. He owns a 1949 Alvis 14 drop-head coupe with bodywork by Carbodies of Coventry, better known now for making London taxis. "I expect Carbodies bodywork is already well represented," writes Mauer, "but my very original and low-mileage car is not on any list so the organisers will not know about it." Now they do, and the parade is becoming more and more impressive.



The Charleote's dashboard and badge typify the care lavished on Standard's costlier products

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION

Win a fabulous day's racing at Silverstone

The Times, in association with ACC Jaguar, offers you the chance to win an exciting day at the British GT Championships at Silverstone, Northants, on Sunday, October 13.

The winner and a companion will be VIP guests of the ACC Jaguar team. You will meet their four drivers, visit the pits, have an unrivalled view of the race and enjoy a superb buffet lunch.

You will also be given some top quality ACC Jaguar merchandise.

Three runners-up will each win an exclusive ACC Jaguar sweatshirt.

With its first major sponsorship leading telephone service provider, ACC, is pinning its hopes of a win on two race-modified cars in the BRDC GT Championships. The 3.5-litre mid-engined Jaguar XJ220s produce more than 600 bhp.

The cars (one is pictured below) will be competing with the McLaren F1, Marcos and Porsche 993 in the climax of the British GT championships.

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Call our competition hotline with your answer to the following question:

What is the brake horse power of the ACC Jaguar XJ220?

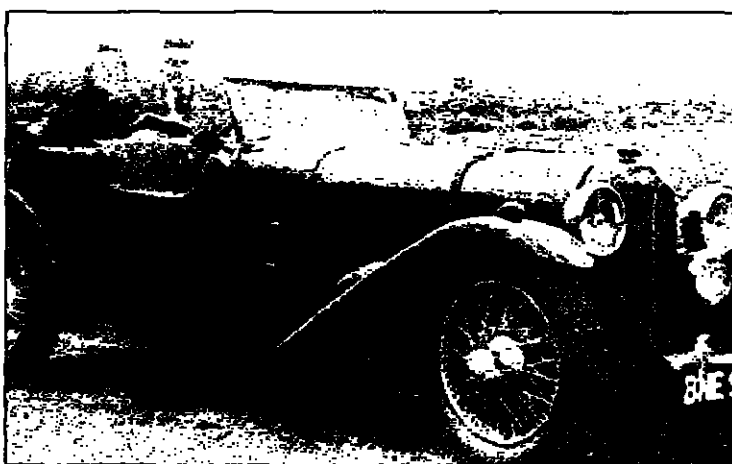
The winner and runners-up will be chosen at random from all correct entries received before midnight on Wednesday, August 21. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.



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Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

Was carmaker Marendaz really a noble?



The Marendaz Special: a reader had difficulty getting rid of one

More accounts of the shadowy Count

Of all the characters associated with the first hundred years of the British motor industry, Marcus Marendaz has stirred most interest among readers. Sheila Lewis of Coventry wrote last month of her father's excitement at riding with the cars to the station to be dispatched by rail.

Allan Lupton of the Len-Francis Owners' Club responded: "Count Marendaz indeed! Captain D. M. K. Marendaz, who operated as Marseal from 1919-25 in Coventry and subsequently under his own name in London, was an inveterate writer to the press until his relatively recent death. His usual topic was the robust defence of his motor cars against some slight, real or imagined, that had appeared in print. What he would have written about his elevation to the nobility defies imagination."

James Thomas of London recalls that Marendaz was a premium apprentice at the same time as his

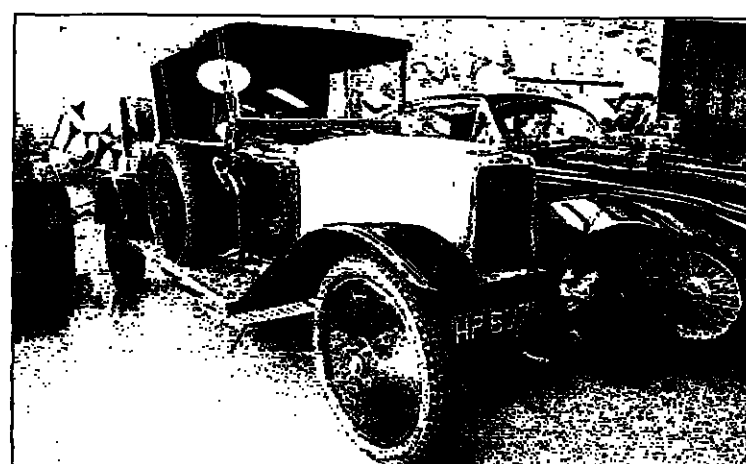
father, Cyril John Thomas, at the Siddeley-Deasy company in Coventry. He writes: "In 1912, in their first year, the apprentices got a penny an hour. I have my father's indenture which shows this."

Marendaz later moved to Bridton and then Maidenhead, where he produced his Marendaz Specials.

Mrs Langley of Campton, Bedfordshire, sent a photograph of one of the Specials owned by her late husband. "He purchased the Marendaz from a Mr Bendall of Stevenage in the early 1950s for £95 and we spent a lot of time doing it up including painting it in post office red with black mudguards. I had the headlights rechromed at the Marmet baby carriage factory in Letchworth where I worked."

"When we got engaged, he realised he couldn't afford to run it, so after trying to sell it to various garages on the North Circular in London, he sold it back to Mr Bendall for £25. It would be wonderful if we could still trace the car."

Readers remind us of forgotten marque



Coventry's British Museum of Road Transport has an example

The fated Albatros returns to haunt us

The fateful omission of one important marque in our list of Coventry-made cars published on July 20 has pursued us like its doom-laden namesake.

Mr B. Blackwell, secretary of the Standard Register writes to report a sighting of the Albatros, marketed in the 1923-24 season. An unremarkable "assembled" small car, he says, powered by a Coventry Climax engine definitely made an appearance in a car showroom in Cardigan in the mid to late 1960s. "I would opine that it is probably still extant," he assures us.

In fact the Museum of British Road Transport at Coventry can confirm his theory: it has a 1923 Albatros four-cylinder tourer preserved in its own museum.

Whether the car was originally intended to have a name of ill omen or was merely a corruption of its maker's name, Albert Ross, is still disputed by motoring historians.

The company was certainly ill-fated, surviving for just two years,

from 1923 to 1924 and was typical of many small firms which went into the motor industry but just could not make a go of it.

The model in the museum is ten horsepower and has been completely refurbished to its original condition with an open two-seater body with dickey seat.

The museum has also unearthed an advertisement from *The Light Car and Cyclecar* magazine which offers a model called "Chummy" for £240 "delivery at works" including "electric lighting, self-starter, spare wheel and cord tyres".

The museum will be at the centre of the British motor industry's centenary celebrations at the end of this month, with special displays and a mini street for youngsters to practise the highway Code and their driving skills in pedal cars. It will also be sending some of its prize exhibits, including six historic Daimlers on the Mayflower Shakespear run through Warwickshire on Sunday September 1.

SEP 17 1996

CAR 96

DR DASHBOARD

Can I learn to scooter?

Q I always thought motorbikes were for kids or middle-aged macho blokes, but scootering sounds a great way to beat the jams. Will I have to take a test before I can get on one?

A So long as you opt for a scooter with an engine of less than 50cc, a top speed not exceeding 30mph and a maximum weight of 250kg it is classified as a moped and your car licence permits you to drive it. But that performance is very limited if you want to travel more than short distances.

Q I'm not really Hell's Angel material, but I think I'd like something a bit larger than that. What do I do to get a licence?

A That depends how old you are and what kind of scooter or bike you want. The first thing you need is an invaluable leaflet issued by the Motorcycle Rider Training Association and the Department of Transport. It bears the rather wordy title, *So you want to ride a moped or motorcycle. Here's what the new law says*. You should have no trouble finding one at your local dealer or call the MRTA on 0171-580 9122.

Q I don't like the sound of "New law." That's the kind of phrase that strikes fear into the heart of the sanest road user. Is this surrounded by bureaucracy?

A You need to pass a theory test to ride a moped or motorcycle, just as you would for a car. The most important difference is something called Compulsory Basic Training (CBT), which you must do before you can ride on the road.

Q How long does the Compulsory Basic Training course take and where do I go to do it?

A A dealer or the MRTA will point you in the right direction, but you must go to a training organisation which is approved by the Driving Standards Agency. Most of these will hire or loan you a bike and protective clothing, so you don't have to invest in a machine if you're not sure about your future on two wheels. The course, which can be completed in a day but usually takes longer, is designed to ensure that you understand the controls and can manoeuvre the bike. Once you've got a CBT certificate you can ride on public roads with L-plates. You then have

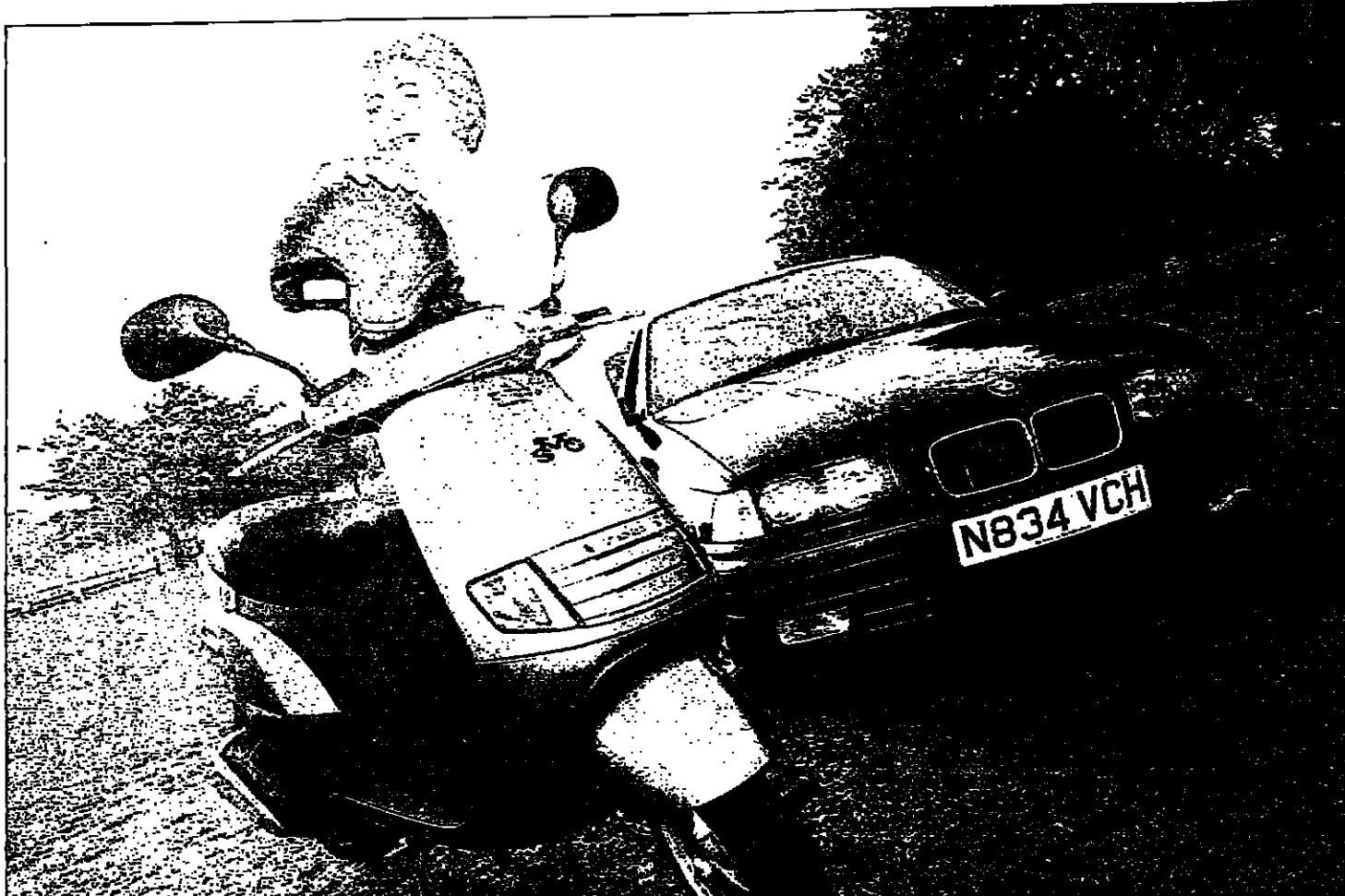
three years to pass the theory and practical driving tests.

Q This sounds like a lot of training to start. What happens after all that?

A That depends how old you are, whether you already have a full car licence and what sort of motorcycle licence you want (The law is changing again and from January 1, 1997, there will be three types). If you are over 21 you can take the test on a motorcycle of at least 35Kw power (about 45bhp) and a pass allows you to ride a bike of any size. If you are under 21 or using your full car licence as a provisional motorcycle licence you are restricted to a motorcycle of up to 125cc until you have passed both theory and practical tests.

Q And what are these three different sorts of motorcycle licence about, then?

A An automatic licence, which could be useful for scooter riders: a light motorcycle licence which restricts you to 125cc and a standard licence, although depending on your age you may still face restrictions with it.



Monica Dickman: I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport to boost two-wheelers

The day I took my Cortina gliding

Jennai Cox talks to long-term scooter rider Monica Dickman

Bikes were in her blood before she was born, says Monica Dickman. She has worked in the motorcycle industry for 25 years and last month became the first female chairman of the Motorcycle Industry Association of Great Britain. She joined the motorcycle finance house, RIGP, in 1971 as an underwriter and after working in marketing took charge of sales. Her real interest in motorcycles started after riding a scooter in the 1960s, and for short journeys Monica still uses a Piaggio Skipper 125cc.

STEERING COLUMN

People who hog the outside lane of the motorway. They pootle along at 70mph in no hurry to get anywhere but just sit in the lane. I call them Sunday drivers, they really annoy me.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car?

Paragliding the Ford Cortina. I was late for a meeting and not wanting to be stuck at some traffic lights I was approaching, took a detour I had never tried before into a kind of demolition site. It was pouring with rain and I had to go through a big puddle but didn't realise it was split-level. I took off from the first level at 70mph, landed on my front wheels and carried on. It was wonderful.

Have you ever had any points on your licence?

Once, I was driving to the Grand Prix at Silverstone in August 1980 and I got cross with two bikers in front of me, driving really slowly and having a chat. It was a Sunday, about 7:15 in the morning so I put my foot down and overtook them. I got a speeding ticket and a £25 fine.

What do you listen to on your car radio/cassette while driving?

I have got very catholic tastes so like almost anything. I usually listen to Radio 4 in the mornings and take book tapes for when I get tired of music. The autobiographies are good and you can rewind when your concentration lapses. It is amazing how quickly the journey passes when you are listening to them.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport what is the first thing you would do?

I would give tax relief to people who travel to work by environmental modes of transport, like two-wheelers, with the objective of raising the proportion of this type of travel from 20 to 25 per cent by the year 2000. This would require a review of road management, road pricing and transport investment proposals from local and national authorities to make the two-wheeler an accepted part of the transport infrastructure.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Peugeot adverts are good. I like the one with the little girl who runs out onto the road and I love the music. Whether they help to sell more cars I have no idea.

How did you first learn to drive?

With the British School of Motoring, mostly in Minis, and I passed my test first time. I took it in the days when you still had to do hand signals, which I hated. On the day of my test it was snowing and the examiner said because of the weather I wouldn't have to do hand signals. I am sure that is why I passed.

What was your first car?

A beige Morris Minor. I bought it with my fiancée after passing my test. When we split up he kept the car and I kept the ring.

What car do you drive now?

A black, N-registration BMW 3-Series.

Do you enjoy driving?

Thoroughly. Although it does sometimes depend on whether it is business or recreational. I like being in control of who gets in touch with me. I have a hands-free mobile phone in the car and because I do so much travelling I am almost always using it.

What is your dream car?

A 1970 Mercedes sports car, the one with the bubble on the top. That would be perfect.

What is your most hated car?

The Ford Cortina. I had one and it caused me so much trouble: almost everything went wrong with it. I finally got rid of it when it started wailing and sounded as though I had a Banshee under the bonnet.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Using the phone so much, but being irritated with other drivers who do it. If I have one other failing it is trying to get from A to B in the quickest time possible, so I have to be mindful of speed.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

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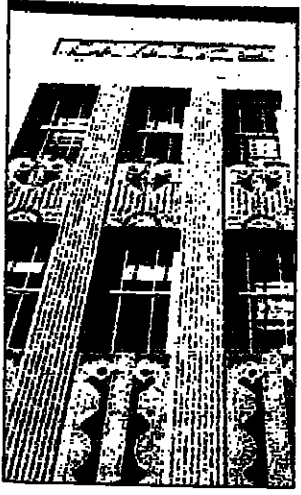
SHOPPING



The power and the pleasure of flying a kite
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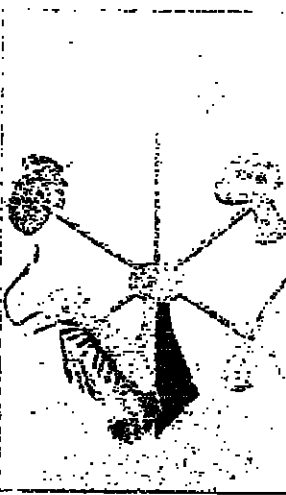
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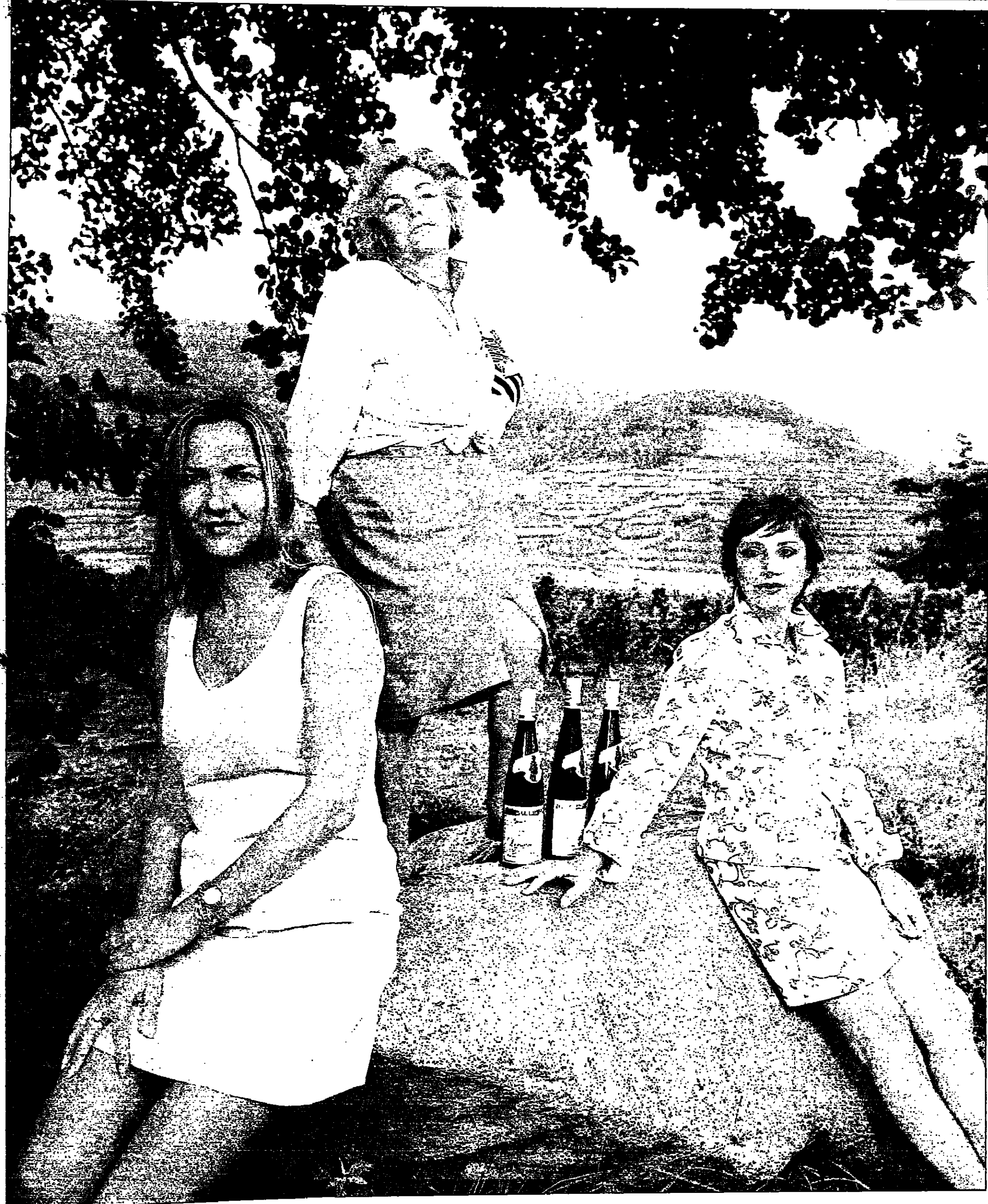
Classic country gardens to visit this weekend
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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 17 1996

LES GRANDES DAMES DU VIN



In a quiet corner of Alsace three powerful female noses control their own vineyard.
Kate Muir sniffed them out



In early evening the sun comes through the wooden blinds bathing the refectory table in stripes. At harvest time this table seats 30 pickers, mostly housewives enjoying a few weeks off in the vineyards. On those days sizeable country stews are served, with wine by the litre. Tonight, however, the fare is more elegant and the finest vintages are open on the table, proudly labelled "Colette Faller et ses filles".

This is one of the few vineyards in France run by a mother and her daughters. If Domaine Weinbach at Kayserburg in Alsace is not exactly a feminist vineyard, it is certainly a feminine one. Mme Faller, widow and matriarch of all she surveys, produces wines, the guides say, of such elegance and subtlety that they could not be wrought by the hand of man.

After long experience, Mme Faller and her daughters, Catherine and Laurence, know the proof is in the palate. They seat the photographer and me at the long table. Their assault on our tastebuds begins with a crisp '94 riesling accompanied by a white fillet of Emperor steamed with fresh ginger and leeks, then *foie gras* with a sweeter gewürztraminer. A muscat and a tokay appear with fresh Münster cheese with cumin, followed by melon sorbet ringed by raspberries.

Three generations of the Faller family line the long table, each tucking a time-honed nose into every glass, tasting, testing before they swallow. As guests, we lack the full-blown vocabulary of experts, but Laurence, at 29 a trained oenologist, describes the Riesling Grand Cru Schlossberg Cuvée Sainte Catherine 1995 as having "a rich, very ripe nose, with an aroma of mango, pineapple and peach".

"Mango," we say weakly. "Of course. Couldn't be anything else."

Then Mme Faller gets out her home-made eaux-de-vie, a series of sub-nuclear fruit brandies made, basically, from the scrapings at the bottom of the barrel — the skins of plums after the juice has gone, the remains of pears. They give an alcoholic kick with barely a memory of the fruit, which madame insists we guess, sipping many times.

Like the best French people, the Fallers know the importance of eating well and drinking well — that is, after all, their business. Their kitchen, in what used to be the old monastery of Clos des Capucins, is testament to that. In the twilight, aided by the tastings of probably six different wines, the old painted pans, the iron stove and the glowing wood of the table turn the room into a painting. "It looks like a Breughel or a Vermeer," muses Laurence. "Yes, but no one smoked in a Vermeer," her mother snaps.

We are on the territory of one tough cookie, a phrase for which there is no translation in France. When Mme Faller took over her husband Theo's successful business after his death in 1979, she found that her fellow wine-growers and merchants were "correct" in their behaviour towards her, but no more. It was a struggle to convince people that the wine was as good, if not better, than before. Although France has a tradition of widows taking over the estate, such as Veuve Clicquot, until recently

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RAE

'Men smell white flowers in a wine; women detect eglantine or hawthorn'

Continued from page 1
grapes were very much male territory, like the rest of agriculture.

"I learnt everything from my husband, but I was also a good pupil," Mme Faller says later, driving like a maniac up twisting dirt roads through her vines, leaving a dust trail through the gewürztraminer and pinot gris. "I realised that the land here, and the varieties of grapes it will take, provide an extraordinary palette. There is no monotone here."

So little by little the wines, and their marketing, began to change. Catherine, 40, who has two sons, took over the commercial side of the business, and Laurence took a wine diploma after studying chemistry at university. (It seemed impolite, as well as scary, to ask the well-preserved Mme Faller her age.)

The Fallers created two special crus from late harvests, named after daughters and saints: Sainte Catherine and Laurence. Only the most brave vineyard owners can risk leaving the grapes on the vine into October until they are sweet, shrivelled and ripe-to-rotting.

This is Alsace as you have seen it only on Christmas cards: half-timbered houses with multicoloured window-boxes and doors hand-painted with flowers, winding streets, cute church towers, all nestling in green valleys among rolling vines and, of course, rolling parties of tourists with camcorders.

Still, no need to sniff at the tourists. Independent visitors buying wine after a tasting in the lace-tabled front parlour, under the old tiled stove, provide almost a third of the vineyard's takings. Much of the rest of the wine goes directly to restaurants or is exported to America, Japan, and Germany. Mme Faller has traded with Oddbins in Britain, "but they want such huge quantities we can rarely

6 The whole domain is reminiscent of Dallas, with Mme Faller as Miss Ellie

fulfil them", she says. The technique of making a few thousand bottles of each wine prevents mass-marketing.

Later, in the parlour — under wall lights made of plastic grapes and paintings of the seven deadly sins, including gluttony — we try six different wines from 1995, each utterly different. I have to admit that this is my first official experience of wine tasting, though not of drinking. I am not fully *au fait* with the correct manner of sniffing, sloshing, slurping and spitting.

Laurence, however, helps with words to describe the tokay '95, such as "a taste dense and rounded, a gentle finish". She explains that within only 60 acres, Domaine Weinbach has sunny south-facing hills, valley vineyards and soils from sandy to limestone, each patch of land, like the rest of Alsace, with its own flavours. This, coupled with three finely honed female palates, results in wines sought by the best restaurants in Paris: the Crillon, the Tour d'Argent and Guy Savoy among others.

Laurence says: "Women do have a different nose for wine. They might produce something more elegant, less heavy and overblown."

As *La Revue du Vin de France* put it: "Each wine has an individual character, colour, tone and style. The Faller ladies are veritable jewellers, cutters of diamonds which light up all the facets of the rieslings, gewürztraminers and tokays planted in the four corners of their domaine."

The whole domaine is oddly reminiscent of *Dallas*, with Mme Faller as the matriarchal Miss Ellie figure, prone to Texan-style jewellery and sequinned denim skirts, and the daughters as Sue Ellen and Pammy. The only men in sight



Colette Faller (far left), with her two daughters, Laurence, left, and Catherine (both standing), and two visitors: their wines have become drier to reflect recent changes in taste away from sweet, rich ones

VINEYARDS FOR SALE

IF YOU are inspired to follow the Fallers' example, finding a suitable vineyard in Britain could be difficult. They come up for sale infrequently and are usually snapped up as soon as they appear, Cheryl Taylor writes.

There is more scope in France, where a small workable vineyard in a wine-growing area in the southwest can be picked up for £200,000, with a restored farmhouse and up to 22 acres of vines. Here are three examples of vineyards on the market:

■ **FRANCE:** Château les Croises, Provence. Refurbished 18th-century château with a fully equipped vineyard and estate in 217 hectares (about 536 acres), including 52.53 hectares of Côte de Provence vines, an hour's drive from Nice airport. The house has nine bedrooms, nine bathrooms, four reception rooms, nursery, billiard room, kitchen, swimming pool, tennis court, orchard, olive grove, paddock wood and parkland. Winery

bottling room, storage, offices and staff accommodation. About £6.5 million.

■ **GERMANY:** the Ashrott Vineyards, Hochheim am Main. Commercial vineyard in 12 hectares (about 30 acres) in the famous Rheingau district. House with manager's accommodation, staff flat, tasting rooms and estate office. Traditional winery in 18th-century cellars, bottling/packing room, workshop and stores. About £1.8 million.

■ **CORNWALL:** Hybadore, Golant-by-Fowey. Award-winning vineyard in 15 acres, with main house (former dairy), self-contained cottage, modern winery, stable block and outbuildings. The main house has two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom and a first floor room (60ft x 17ft) with balcony and external staircase. Offers over £350,000.

The agent to contact for all three vineyards is Knight Frank (0171-629 8171).



The award-winning 15-acre Hybadore vineyard at Golant-by-Fowey, Cornwall

are the vineyard workers. The most memorable example of new female blood spurting up an old vintage is the story of Nicole Barbe Cluquot-Ponsardin, who was widowed at 27 and took over her husband's champagne estate. She improved methods, inventing the process of shaking, which removes sediment and clarifies the champagne, and in 1814 expanded her market to the imperial court at St Petersburg. With a firm grasp of branding, she brought in the striking orange label which is still used today. Her understandably self-satis-

fied portrait is still found on publicity by the company.

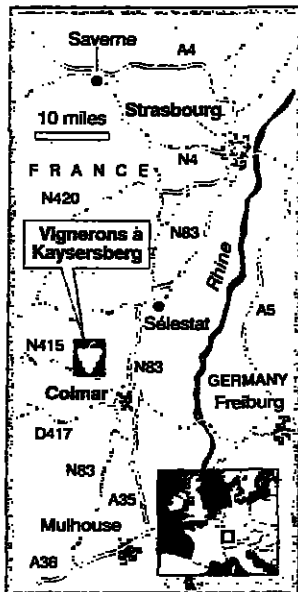
Such *grandes dames du vin* are becoming increasingly common in France. The domaine Georges Mugneret on the Côte d'Or is also run by a mother and two daughters, both of whom are oenologists. As one wine magazine noted: "Women have a more accurate palate. Is that because, in their childhood, they were close to their mothers and smelled those perfumes? One thing is sure: if a man recognises the scent of white flowers in a wine, a woman will be able to say if the flower is eglantine or hawthorn."

Few women buy vineyards. Most fall into the business by proximity. Christine Vallette has been running her father's vineyard at Château Troplong-Mondot in Bordeaux since 1981, when the manager retired. The family has worked the 30 hectares (about 74 acres) since the turn of the century, producing 130,000 bottles a year of what Mme Vallette calls "a powerful red, a good wine. We are aiming at a

great, classic Saint-Émilion". She believes the wine world is no crueler to a woman than a man: "It would have been just as difficult to be a man at the beginning — you still have to make a name for yourself."

However, there were some advantages that came with her sex: "I was very young and a woman and they remembered me." Indeed, the Château Troplong-Mondot brochure includes a colour photograph of the proprietress looking windswept in her rose garden. "But if people say, 'It's a woman with green eyes,' that doesn't add up to much if the wine is no good."

Guides list the château among the top ten producers of Saint-Émilion in France. Mme Vallette says she has altered her family's entire business, from the marketing of the wine — with trendy black and white photographs of the vineyards and her ancestors on horseback — to the wine itself. "Perhaps people who liked the wine



under my parents may no longer find it to their taste," she shrugs.

Laurence Faller says their wines have changed, too. "Many taste drier than before: it's more popular. Sweet rich wine was more 1980s style."

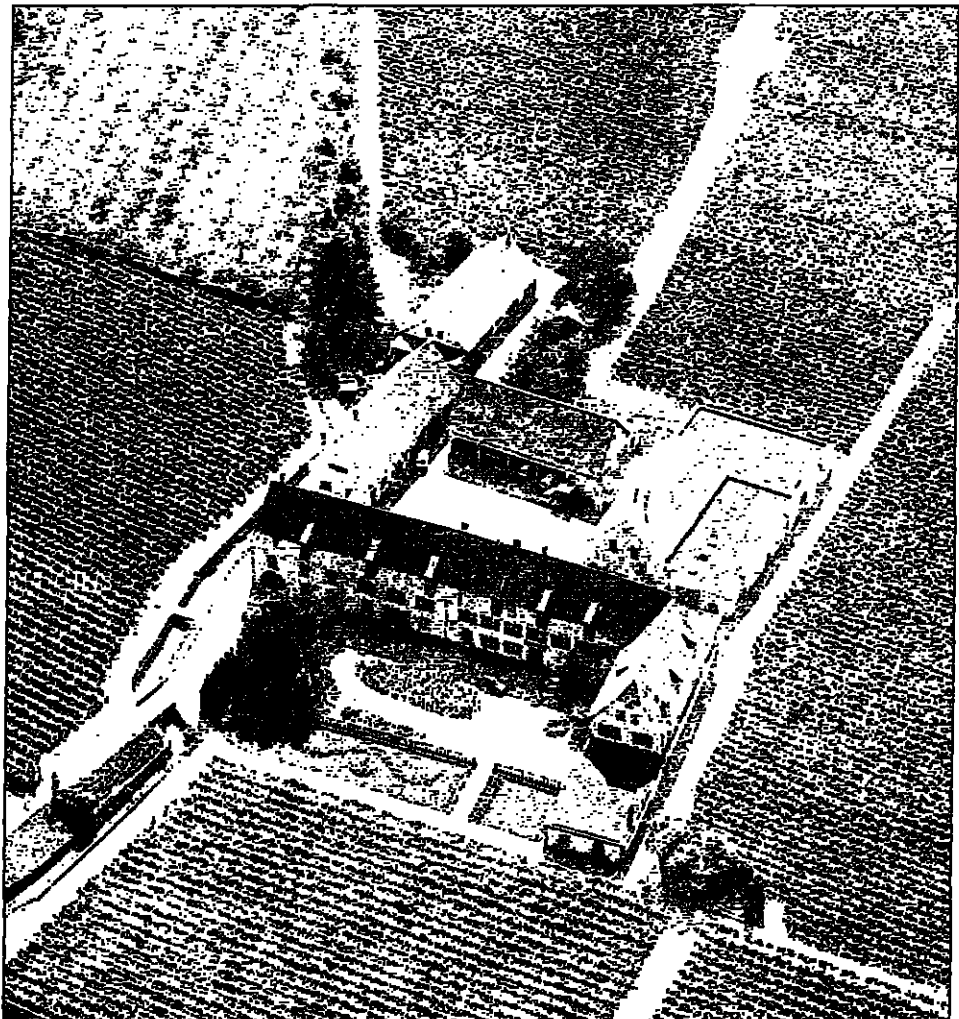
Such subtle alterations are possible once the methods of wine-making are made more precise. Laurence worked for a while at the huge Sonoma-Cutrer vineyards in California and learnt many of the latest techniques. The Domaine Weinbach has new stainless-steel wine presses and a pristine modern bottling and filtering plant, but the great oval barrels in the chilly 14C cellar are 80 years old and made of oak — new wood might tarnish the taste of the wine.

The whole operation, although it does not say so on the bottles, is nearly organic. Neither chemicals nor yeasts are added to the wine: fermentation is entirely natural, and no insecticides are used on the vines. The grapes are picked by hand, just as they were when the first vines were planted here by the Capuchin monks in 1890. The Fallers' finest bottles, the Sélection de Grains Nobles (made from grapes affected by noble rot), are picked grape by grape resulting in a few, extraordinary wines.

The slightly tipsy monks were run out by Revolutionaries in 1799 and the land was sold to private owners, eventually the Fallers in 1898.

Mme Faller, however, still has that sense of vocation about her work. "I didn't just marry a man," she says dramatically. "I married the cause of wine in Alsace."

Kate Muir on Paris, page 10



The Fallers's 60-acre Domaine Weinbach, where each patch of land has its own flavours

JANE MACQUITTY GIVES HER VERDICT

My two favourite Alsace wine producers are Domaine Weinbach, run by Colette Faller and her two daughters, and Zind-Humbrecht run by Léonard Humbrecht and his son Olivier. The grape harvest from superbly sited vineyards is tiny at both properties, with yields about half the level of their competitors, so that their wines



taste astonishingly rich, complex and concentrated compared with other vins d'Alsace. Once the grapes have been hand-harvested the Humbrechts' and Fallers' grapes continue to ferment and age in the most traditional manner possible, in the large old oak foudres or vats. These were once the only vessels the Alsace region possessed but they have now been replaced elsewhere by stainless steel.

In Alsace, the patchwork plots of land, where different soils, microclimates and varieties flourish, mean that both families do all they can to keep each parcel of grapes separate, so that their quality can sing in your glass. To that end, the earth floor of the Humbrecht cellar heaves with every size and shape of vat imaginable, whereas the more

scented Zind-Humbrecht wines. The other great difference between the two is that a lot of the Humbrechts' 18,000-case production is sold in Britain, compared with only a few hundred cases of the Faller wines.

At present there are just two Faller wines available here: the 1994 Riesling Cuvée Sainte Catherine (Oddbins £15.99), whose rich, steely, powerfully verdant style is full of green apple and lime-like fruit (yes, it does have a finish reminiscent of peaches and mangoes), and the 1994 Tokay Pinot Gris, Réserve Particulière (Oddbins £12.99), with its wonderful, intense, spicy, nutty fruit: a great food wine with tremendous finesse.

Jane Macquitty's Drink column, Magazine, page 37

Wine Courses

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Shirley Bond's cookbook is like a bible, with help for every day of your life. But disobey the commandments and all hell breaks loose

Thou shalt not cheat on the recipe

I don't know what you took for holiday reading this year. Cooper, Deighton, Higgins, Trollope? I shunned them all in favour of a gripping read that had me trembling at every turn of the page and held me until the very last word. It haunts me still and the urge to read it again from cover to cover is overwhelming. Nothing in the kitchen will ever be the same.

Written by Bond, Shirley Bond, this thriller bears the less than rousing title, *Home Measures*. But do not be fooled; it is a throbber of a read and, what's more, every word in it is true, I hope.

Like a bible, it has something to help you through every day of your life. For example, let us imagine that we are baking a Christmas cake. How much almond paste will we need, and how much royal icing with which to clothe it? Guess. Suppose it is a 10in square cake. Shirley Bond has the precise answer: two-and-a-quarter pounds of almond paste and two-and-a-half of royal icing.

You may know that already, but to novice cooks like me this sort of information is beyond price. As are the

exact proportions for building a wedding cake. In my nightmares I am asked to cook a three-tier wedding cake and spend the night before the nuptials working at it with an electric sander in order to give it a crafted rather than flung-together look. Well, if your bottom tier is 30.5cm, the middle 25cm and the top 15cm, your cake will look as though it has been designed by Christopher Wren himself.

Come Christmas, restless night hours will be averted by knowing in advance that to make 50 mince pies 6cm in diameter needs 1.5kg of home-made pastry and 1kg of mincemeat, and should I ever be made an honorary member of the WRVS, then I shall need to know that two pints of milk are required for every gallon of tea.

Do you ever look at a cake tin and wonder how big it is? Do you long to avoid those moments of deep despair when you pour your rich and luscious

cake mixture into the tin to find it only rises an inch up the sides, and you realise that after cooking you will need a potholer to extract it? Bond can help you.

She says: "Fill [the tin] to the very top with water, or to the height you want the finished cake to be. Tip the water into a measuring jug and read the capacity. Make one-and-a-half pounds of fruit cake mixture for every pint of water measured." Magic.

I assume she is right. It would be a cruel betrayal if she kidded us about the capacity of standard-sized pudding bowls or how many profiteroles to the kilogram of choux pastry (65g makes 20, apparently). Convincing though it all sounds, I

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

decided to test it and took as my starting point the hand-ed-down wisdom that a successful Swiss roll can only be baked in a correctly sized Swiss roll tin. Too big a tin leaves an unrollible Swiss lump; too thick gives you indigestion because the middle will not be cooked when the outside is a nice shade of brown.

So, if you are using the standard recipe of 4oz flour, 4oz caster sugar and three eggs, do not dare attempt a Swiss roll unless the tin is 9in by 13in by 3in. I sent out for a new one for the occasion, noting how the family seem only too ready to undertake errands which involve leaving the house when I am at the stove.

According to the label on the new nun-

stick, it was one-sixteenth of an inch shorter and three-sixteenths deeper than Shirley Bond insists. Surely, this could not matter?

I whisked the eggs and sugar till thick, foamy and pale yellow; then sieved the flour on to a plate.

Opinion seems to vary about the flour. Even the Aga cookbook writers, those Old Testament scribes of the home-comfort school of cookery, cannot decide whether to use plain or self-raising. I used the latter for the simple reason that there was none of the former, hoping that such serendipity may prove the basis of great cuisine, as in the sandwich.

I folded the flour into the whisked mixture, carefully so as not to release the air and, with my breath held, poured the mixture into the tin. It fitted. It really fitted. Neither too much, nor too little.

Good old Shirley. She now has my complete trust. When she says that 5oz of suet mixture makes 16 dumplings, I shall never doubt her.

I cooked my Swiss roll for ten minutes, and it was gloriously light and browned. It came out of the tin with no trouble despite enjoying the perfect fit, and then a fearful thought occurred. Would it roll? It would not. It went so far but then cracks appeared as deep as the bed of a Yorkshire reservoir in summer. I half expected to see a tiny environment secretary standing in the middle of it for a photo-opportunity.

Sadly, I let the sponge flop back, unrolled. I blame those extra three-sixteenths on the depth. I told you it was like a bible; disobey the commandments, put in an extra cubit of gopher-wood without divine authority, and all hell will break loose.

As for the Swiss unroll. I spread it thickly with double cream, sliced strawberries on top, cut it in half and made the best of a bad job. A sandwich.

● *Home Measures* by Shirley Bond is published by Grub Street, £7.99.

CHOCOLATE BOX

DIABETIC chocolate is a great concept. As chocolate depends for its appeal on fat — cocoa solids and butter — and sugar, and the current thinking on sensible eating for diabetics is to cut the intake of both, the idea of a chocolate safe for diabetics is highly attractive. In various retailers and even chemists' shops you will see confectionery labelled as suitable for diabetics.

You might think that the British Diabetic Association would be happy to endorse it. You'd be wrong. "A waste of time," says an association spokeswoman. "It is up to four times as expensive as ordinary chocolate, often just as high in fat and calories; and the types of sweeteners used instead of sugar can have a laxative effect if you eat a lot at one go. It won't do you any harm, but it won't do you any good, either."

It seems that these products originally came onto the market when official thinking was that diabetics should have a high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. Now, high levels of fibre, low levels of fat — especially saturated fat — and the control of sugar intake, are the watchwords. "About 80 per cent of non-insulin dependent diabetics are overweight, and besides, foods high in fat are bad because of fat's role in heart disease," says a BDA dietician. It should be emphasised that every diabetic's dietary needs will be different, and one-to-one consultation is essential.

THE BDA leaflet, *Food & Diabetes — How to get it right*, contains the suggestion: "As long as your day-to-day eating is healthy and, on the whole, your blood glucose levels are good, the occasional celebration meal or little bit of chocolate will do you no harm. Enjoy it and carry on." The association's *Eating Well with Diabetes* has the admonition: "Avoid special diabetic products. They can be expensive and offer no special health benefit."

The best consolation for chocolate fans who are diagnosed as diabetic is along the lines of: "You can eat ordinary chocolate, but only occasionally, and only a little." So just one square of Valrhona for me, thanks.

TONY PATRICK

For more information, contact the British Diabetic Association (0171-233 1534; fax 0171-637 3644) at 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD. There is also a Yareline, on 0171-636 6112, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm.

Go wild for free

BACK FROM holiday in Devon and Wales, it struck me how much of a free open larder the country is and what little use we make of it. In Devon, I netted wriggling thumb-sized prawns, in Wales I picked pea-sized, sweet wild cherries, sharp blueberries and wild sorrel for salads.

Whether it is cockles from the Gower Peninsula or the Southampton Sound, marsh samphire from Norfolk, cob nuts from Kent, crab apples from the New Forest, damsons from Cumbria or chanterelles from the Highlands, every area seems to have some wild food to offer. But blackberries apart, we seem reluctant to play the role of hunter-gatherer.

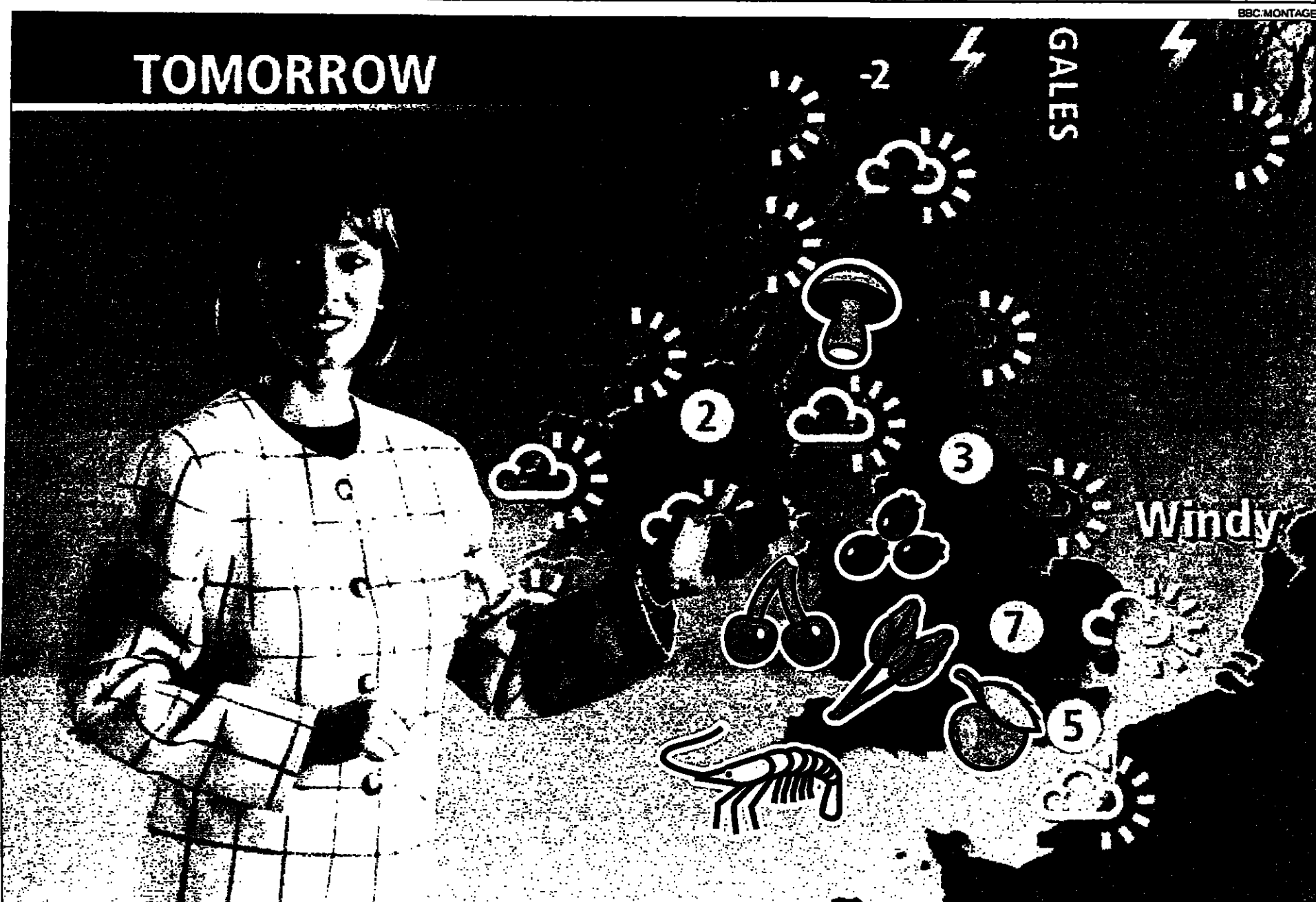
Why is this? Could it be that we are too bone idle? Or are we too nervous of being poisoned? If the latter is the case, then you can do no better than consult Roger Phillips's *Wild Food* (Macmillan, £12.99). A classic of its kind, there are helpful photographs to point you in the right direction.

Now the mushroom season has started, you should also get hold of a copy of Roger Phillips's *Mushrooms* (Macmillan £12.99). He may not tell you where the best spots are — no true mycologist ever would — but armed with his book you will be able to identify your pickings. Failing that, Valvona & Crolla, 19 Elm Row, Edinburgh is running mushroom identification "surgeries" on September 2, 16 and 30 under Dr Watling of Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens. Ring 0131-556 6066 for details.

And if you need help finding the little blighters, the Tasty Mushroom Partnership is organising all-day forays from hotels, starting on September 2 in Derbyshire and continuing in Norfolk, Shropshire, Crumpton and Hampshire, until mid-October. Contact Peter Jordan, Poppy Cottage, Station Road, Burnham Market, Norfolk PE31 8HA (01328 738841).

Beef on beef

I LOVE a joint of good roast beef but I've not been able to buy what I want recently. This is due to a curious anomaly. Beef from cattle more than 30 months old, you may remember, has been banned from entering the food chain. But why 30 months? It seems such an arbitrary figure, particularly as the experts now believe that cows don't develop BSE until at least 50 months old. It appears that, because supermarkets did not handle beef cuts and joints from cattle older than 30 months, this was the figure the Ministry of



The outlook is good: from prawns in Devon to crab apples in the New Forest and cob nuts in Kent, every area in Britain has a wealth of wild food waiting to be harvested

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) settled on.

However, Britain's finest beef comes from our traditional, native pure-breeds — the Herefords, Rubys, Welsh Blacks, Galloways and Highland cattle. They are reared on grass, hay and silage, and allowed to develop and mature at their natural pace. This gives great depth and flavour to the meat. The cattle diet is about as wholesome as you can get, with no antibiotics or concentrates to boost their growth. It's a slow process where nothing is forced and, depending on where the cattle graze and at what time they are born, it means that they will not be ready for the table until way past 30 months, the slaughter-by date.

Peter Greig, of Pipers Farm, rears North Devons (Rubys). He was so upset by the cut-off date that he joined forces with other farmers and lobbied MAFF for a Mature Beef Assurance Scheme, proposing standards that would guarantee a safe, quality beef. After months of negotiation,

MAFF has now decided to go ahead, but it has laid such stringent conditions that Mr Greig fears that few of our 2,000 traditional beef farmers will be able to comply. So we are back to square one and the

DIGEST



Henrietta Green

lovers of best British beef will still be starved of supplies. If you want to know more about the scheme or to try Mr Greig's beef — from cattle under 30 months old, of course — contact him at Pipers Farm, Cullompton, Exeter, Devon EX15 1SD (01392 881380).

Cure all

IF, LIKE ME, you prefer kippers cured and smoked from locally landed fresh herrings — this is your opportunity. Most kippers on sale come from frozen herrings imported from Iceland. While there is nothing wrong with that — the fish are plump and juicy, and suffer no loss of flavour in being frozen — I prefer buying British fish.

Kippers have been smoked for generations at L. Robson of Craster, Northumberland. But nowadays far fewer British fish are landed as our stocks have never properly recovered from overfishing in the 1970s. The herring-for-kipper season on the North East coast used to last from mid-May through to September, now it runs from mid-July to August. After that, the fish start to spawn, reducing their oil content, making them unacceptable for a good kipper, and also relatively small.

At this time of year, L. Robson will mail-order kippers from locally landed her-

rings. Boxes start from 454g (£3.20 incl p&p), which should give you between 12 and 15 kippers. But hurry, stocks only last until the end of the month, then it is back to the Icelandic herring stock.

For more information, contact L. Robson, Haven Hill, Craster, Northumberland NE66 3TR (01665 76223).

Hey pesto

IT SEEMS incredible that pesto — a glorious green confection of basil, pine kernels, olive oil and parmesan cheese that cheers up any pasta — has been with us for such a short time.

Apart from Italian specialist delis, it was first imported by the Italian manufacturer Sacla in 1989. In those days only 100,000 jars were sold, but now sales have rocketed to near the six million mark, and cost about £1.49 a jar.

Unlike the poor sun-dried tomato that has suffered the fickle fate of fashion, sales show no signs of falling. Even as I write, the basil is being

harvested in Liguria and, to give the sun-dried tomato a chance, Sacla has added it to make red pesto. Fashion freaks and Italians may not approve, but I rather like it.

It's available from all good supermarkets nationwide. ● Fiona Beckett is away

More food and drink in the Magazine

'Virtually the perfect summer book. No deck-chair will be complete without it' — *Independent*



LYNNE TRUSS Tennyson's Gift

'An enormously entertaining novel... a fast-moving farce which allows her sideswipes at the foibles of the famous' — *Sunday Telegraph*

'A comic novel of subtle distinction... a richly entertaining book, and at times a very moving one' — *The Times*

'A rollicking read. It is mischievous, light-hearted and fun' — *Literary Review*

'Wildly witty' — *Daily Mail*



THE TIMES

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HATTIE ELLIS

On your skates for a tea party

SUMMER AFTERNOON TEA Serves four

Cucumber and prawn sandwiches
Cinnamon toast
Lemon syrup cake
Peaches and strawberries

Why has tea gone out of fashion? A big tea is the perfect meal before an evening out. It does not involve much food, and can be made in advance, which is the essence of easy entertaining. It can be expanded to feed any number of people, including greedy children. But the real joy of afternoon tea is the opportunity to indulge in buttered toast, little sandwiches and sweet, sticky cakes.

■ **Tart up bought cake**
Mix the juice of a lemon with 75g (3oz) caster sugar. Pour it over 300g (11oz) bought maderia cake, and during the cake so

FAST FOOD

the sides and top are covered in the sugar syrup.

■ **Make sandwiches**
Spread eight thin slices of white bread with a little cream cheese. Cover four slices with thin slices of cucumber and 100g (4oz) prawns. Season with salt and black pepper.

Put the other slices of bread on top. Cut the crusts off the sandwiches (it makes all the difference) and cut each sandwich into four triangles.

■ **Make cinnamon toast**
Toast four thin slices of white bread on one side under a grill. Spread them on the

Shopping List

Fruit
1 lemon
½ cucumber
500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries
4 peaches

Dairy
30g (1oz) cream cheese
milk for tea
30g (1oz) butter

Fish
100g (4oz) cooked prawns

Bakery
300g (11oz) maderia cake
12 thin slices white bread

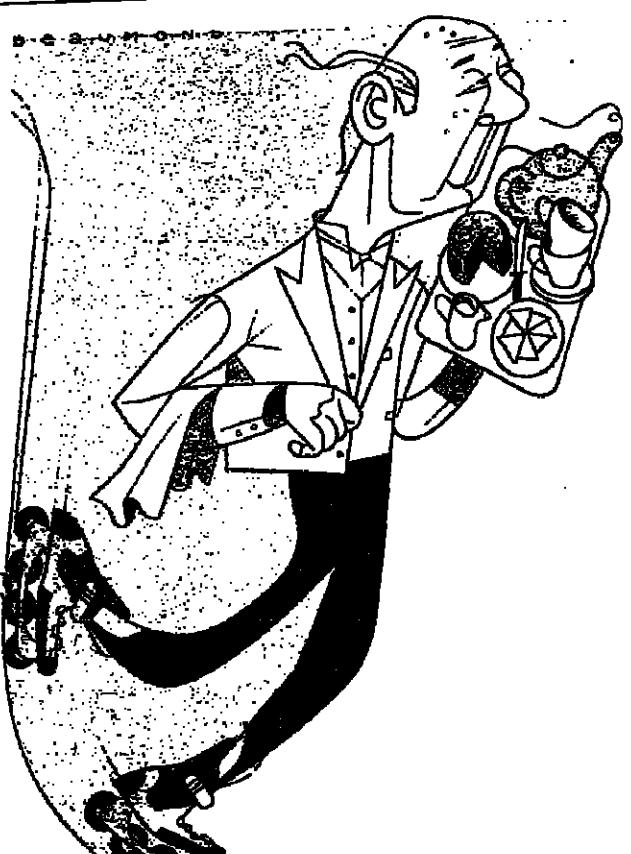
Store cupboard
75g (3oz) caster sugar
2tbs caster sugar
1tsp ground cinnamon
Earl grey or Darjeeling tea

untoasted side with a generous amount of butter and sprinkle 1tbs caster sugar and a large pinch of ground cinnamon over each one. Put back under the grill until the sugar melts to a nice buttery crust. Take care the edges of the bread do not burn. Cut into fingers.

■ **Prepare fruit**
Wash 500g (1lb 2oz) strawberries, but you do not need to hull them. Wash four peaches.

■ **Serve tea**
For some reason, tea does taste better in bone-china cups, so dig them out from the back of the cupboard. If you feel like a bit of Merchant-Ivory film-glamour, then find a tablecloth as well.

Make Earl Grey or Darjeeling tea in a teapot. Put all the food on plates and let everyone help themselves.



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For more information, contact Hattie Ellis at 01392 881380.

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PETS

A new puppy by any other name

Choosing what to call your pet can be hard work — and likely to cause a heated family debate or offend your best friends



So Puppy it is... at least until we can think of something better, if not more suitable. My parents are about to acquire a Labrador retriever bitch puppy and the entire family is embroiled in the great naming debate — and the unexpected reasons why our particular choices just won't do.

The rules are: the name must suit the large and dignified dog she will surely be, and each of the seven owners' somewhat eccentric requirements. Bearing in mind that four of the potential owners are boys with definite ideas on the subject, the battle will not be easily won by the others.

Lesson number one: naming a

dog after a person, even inadvertently, isn't the done thing: it will not be taken as a compliment. So my mother's first choices, Sophie and Zara, had to be ruled out after I reminded her that these are the names of two of my best friends, who are sisters. Along with their brother, Toby, they are already convinced that their parents named the three of them after dogs.

So what about Emma, my mother said. No, she's another friend. Fortunately a male point of view

was offered here: Emma would make her sound too much like a girl, said my father.

After moving away from the names of my friends, my mother progressed swiftly to a woodland theme. With a penchant for the weird at the best of times, she plumped for Fern. Or Bracken. Worse still, Pansy. These were soon dismissed by my brothers as too girly, and too embarrassing to call across a crowded beach. As were, thankfully, Poppy, Daisy and

Susie. These are names for little dogs, yappy dogs, not like our Puppy. So it had to be a name a man can shout in public, in front of his friends, without compromising himself. No, Daisy wouldn't do.

Well, how about a sporting name — like Cantona? According to the Kennel Club, at least four dogs have registered that name, including Eric the Highland terrier. But no, that wasn't right either. So, our choices went from bad to worse. Bess and Holly were thrown into

the ring, quickly followed by Magnolia (well, she does have a cream coat). But my mother was confidently proclaimed that the matter would be decided in the same way as when naming a baby. We'll know what to call her, when we see her, she said.

Hopefully this will provide the answer, because our other dog, Jess, still answers to Puppy after another naming dispute seven years ago.

After meeting "Puppy" my mother immediately decided on Ella, the Elephant, because of the newcomer's enormous feet.

Who do I know called Ella?

AMANDA LOOSE

Despite their creepy-crawliness and cannibalistic lifestyle, tarantulas are growing in popularity as pets



To many people, this Mexican Red Knee tarantula is far from fearsome and makes an ideal pet: it takes up minimum space and costs little to feed. However, buying one will set you back £90-£150

If you like hairy legs ...

To most people, spiders are creatures that live in the garden shed or an undisturbed part of the house. It's a live-and-let-live sort of arrangement which breaks down when they trespass on our territory. Just when you thought it was safe to go into the bathroom, they come up through the plug-hole.

But to a dedicated few, spiders — or arachnids as they are correctly termed — are much-loved pets, and Dr Robert Bustard, a Perthshire-based scientist, says the popularity of the arachnid is growing.

Tarantulas have replaced stick insects as the convenience pets of the 1990s, says Dr Bustard, who is one of the country's leading tarantula breeders. They are easy to care for and require little space. They are also less boring to watch than stick insects.

Dogs and cats need constant attention but a tarantula's owner can go away for up to two weeks without worrying, so long as he or she leaves out food and water.

The name "tarantula" was originally given to the wolf spider but, according to London Zoo, the term has come to be used for many large spiders which originate from the tropical rainforests.

Tarantulas and other spiders are

classified as arachnids. There are at least 600 species of arachnid, says Dr Bustard, who believes that this number is just the tip of the iceberg, with many more species as yet undiscovered.

Ninety-five per cent of the spiders kept as pets in Britain are tarantulas. Because they are not dangerous, there is no special legislation governing their role as pets. (Certain more venomous arachnids, however, are subject to stringent regulations.)

The popularity of the tarantula is mainly due to its large size, says Dr Bustard, who specialises in the bigger varieties — not the sort of thing you would expect from a man who admits being phobic about spiders when growing up in Australia. As a boy he was told by his parents not to go near small spiders. The infamous black widow, one of the deadliest spiders in the world, is little bigger than the common British house spider. Tarantulas, by comparison, are pussy cats. But while you might happily

allow your cat to curl up in your lap, having your friendly tarantula about your person is a more risky business. Risky, that is, for the tarantula.

"The first thing I tell potential tarantula owners is not to handle them," says Ann Webb, the aptly named honorary secretary of the British Tarantula Society and author of *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*. "They are delicate creatures and you could kill them if handled without the greatest of care. The already fragile structure of the tarantula is even more vulnerable when it sheds its skin once a year," she says.

Contrary to popular belief, the tarantula is unlikely to kill a human. Although the tarantula's bite contains venom it is not enough to kill, unless you suffer an allergic reaction. Mrs Webb compares the bite with the sting of a bee or wasp.

Tarantulas are unlikely to bite anyway. "They are not particularly aggressive," she says. This lack of

aggression is because most pet tarantulas have been bred in captivity. Tarantulas are cannibals and are far more likely to direct whatever aggression they have at another of their own kind.

Anyone considering keeping them as pets should bear in mind that each tarantula has to be housed alone. The only time they can be put together is for mating — and even then they must be parted soon after.

Each tarantula must be kept in a terrarium, a glass container a little bigger than a large shoe box. The terrarium needs careful heating and part of it should be kept at around 75°F while the rest is kept cooler, says Kirk Chapman, of the Coudsdon Pet Centre in Surrey, who started keeping tarantulas eight years ago. "When tarantulas are feeding they move to the warmer area," he says.

Food is the only expense a tarantula owner has once a terrar-

ium and its accompanying heat mat, which maintains temperature, have been bought. The tarantula is carnivorous and you will need to keep a steady food supply available for your exotic pet, but they do not need to eat every day.

Mr Chapman feeds his six tarantulas on live crickets, locusts and the occasional frozen pink mouse (a term for a baby mouse). One hundred crickets or locusts will set you back about £2; a pink mouse costs about 35p. Apparently, one of the attractions of owning a tarantula is watching it trap its prey when it feeds.

They also need water. Mr Chapman says, and it's best to put cottonwool in the dish to prevent the tarantula falling in and drowning. The terrarium should be mist-sprayed once a week to maintain the humidity.

The cost of buying a tarantula varies. A lot of people start off with a breed known as a Chile Rose, which cost about £15 each. Prices start to rise from there: a Mexican

Red Knee or a Bird Eater can set you back £90-£150.

Tarantulas, in common with all pets, should not be an impulse buy. Mrs Webb says, and you must have a home ready before you buy one. Its average lifespan is five years for the male, but the female can live to about 15.

There is also the addictive aspect of keeping a tarantula to consider. While you might not fall in love with your creepy-crawly, you could, Dr Bustard warns, become enthralled to such a degree that one is not enough.

"People start with a single tarantula but soon buy more and more because they want one of every different type," he says.

BRENDAN MARTIN

For further information contact Ann Webb, of the British Tarantula Society, on 01233 856071. Her book, *The Proper Care of Tarantulas*, is published by TFH Publications, The Spinnage, Parklands, Forest Road, Denmead, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6AR (01705 268122). £12.95.

For London Zoo's leaflet, "Keeping a Spider", send an SAE with your cheque for 50p, made payable to the Zoological Society of London, to: The Education Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

Sky-high snack for anteaters

Feather Report

ON SULTRY days in late July and early August ants go on the spree. Thousands of winged males and females soar into the air to meet each other and mate. Afterwards the males die, while the females who have mated successfully come back to earth, shuffle off their wings and go underground to lay their eggs. Both black garden ants and red meadow ants mate like this, sometimes on the same day.

But their merrymaking is often rudely interrupted. The other day I saw a flock of black-headed gulls climbing and twisting about in the sky in a most ungainly way. There were also many starlings zooming and gliding among them. All of them had abandoned their normal way of life to feast on one of these swarms of flying ants, and were doing it very successfully.

Birds on the ground also feed on the winged ants as they come out of their nests, and when they fall later back to earth. House sparrows and pied wagtails are quite adept at leaping into the air and catching an insect flying near them.

MANY species, in fact, do a bit of aerial catching when winged insects are abundant. I have seen bullfinches and chaffinches hover or flutter over a branch to get them, and in spring especially, when the first flies appear, willow warblers and chiffchaffs are always leaping up among the young leaves in pursuit of them.

I also saw a few house martins joining in the chase of the flying ants. Swallows generally hunt closer to the ground; however, I expect some came swooping along where the ants were taking off.

But it was too late for the swifts to enjoy the bonanza. They have had a disastrously rainy summer, which made it difficult for them to find enough aerial plankton to feed their young, and in many nests all the chicks died. The parents have given up, and migrated back to sunny Africa.

DERWENT MAY

What's about: *Birders* — watch out for young swallows and house martins gathering with adults on telephone wires. *Twinklers* — black-winged pratincole at Monks Country Park, Angus; little bittern at Fleet Pond, Hampshire. Details from *Birdline*, 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.



A feast for black-headed gulls

The food to make a cat grin

A Vet Writes...

What is the best food for cats? There are raw meat advocates, chicken enthusiasts, and indulgent owners believing their cat is unique because it will eat only liver, salmon, lights, or best steak. They justify pandering to these feline whims because meat and fish are "natural" foods.

Cats are total carnivores, with precise dietary requirements. They must have ready-made vitamin A. Dogs and humans can turn carotene from vegetables into vitamin A, cats can't. They get it only from animal fat. The same considerations apply to some B vitamins and certain amino acids. Most species can convert one protein to another, cats can't. Their essential proteins must come from meat.

Our cats' wild ancestors caught their prey and ate it, freshly killed — fur, feathers, a bit of bone, heart, liver, pieces of intestine, along with fat and

contains everything a cat needs. When your cat comes home with a pigeon, rabbit or mouse, and dismembers it on the kitchen floor, that's natural. It's messy but such mixed prey provides a perfect diet. So does good quality proprietary cat food, canned or dry, from one of the "big name" manufacturers. And this man-made mixture won't pass on disease. Cats get tapeworms

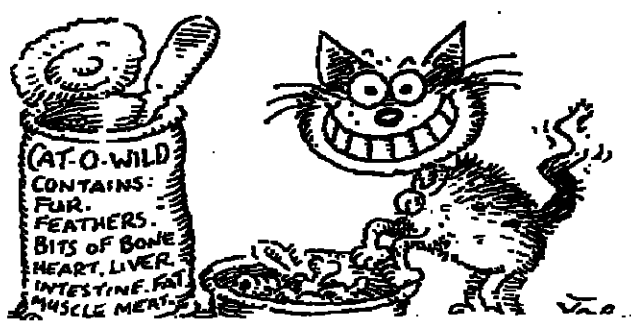
by eating mice. They catch, and transmit, toxoplasma when raw rat and vole are included in the *plat du jour*.

If your cat enjoys a piece of liver, raw cod or steamed Dover sole occasionally, it won't harm it. But living on liver alone can cause severe spinal trouble resulting from a deficiency of calcium and phosphorous and an excess of vitamin A — yes, too much

can be as bad as too little. A dish of raw fish every day, and nothing else, leads to Chastek paralysis — a thiamin deficiency.

And what about milk? Cats enjoy it but their digestive enzymes don't deal well with lactose (milk sugar), and milk *ad lib* can cause chronic diarrhoea. Water is safer. Cats living on canned food, meat or fish do not drink much because the cans contain at least 75 per cent water, which is nearly all the fluid a cat needs. Dried food has less than 10 per cent water, so your cat has to drink to top up. This is critical: if it doesn't take this extra water the urine concentrates and crystals can form in the bladder causing cystitis. Painful for she-cats and more serious, even fatal, for toms.

If your cat has ever had bladder trouble, avoid dried foods, otherwise make certain there is plenty to drink.



Dogged determination

INCLUDED in the Spillers' ten-day Festival of Working Dogs starting today and running until Monday, August 26 at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex, are sheepdog and gundog trials, obedience training and dog racing with greyhounds, whippets, lurchers, terriers and the barkless basenjis. For owners who keep themselves as fit as their pets there is the biathlon — an obstacle course which involves you and your dog clambering, crawling, jumping, running and coping with wet and muddy terrain. Information from freephone 0800 738 2273.

Prize carp

PETE WATERMAN, the pop producer, keeps koi carp at his home in Cheshire in an area of water about the size of four Olympic swimming pools. Not long ago he added to his collection with a prize specimen bought in Japan for £100,000. His ambition is to breed from this fish, and he may

PET NEWS

his outlay by selling the offspring at about £2,000 each, according to Andrew MacKinnon, writing on "Why Are Koi So Special?" in this month's *Pet Business News*.

Just joking

EXPECT a rash of cute pet books hitting the shelves well before Christmas. Coming soon: *The Awfully Good Cat Joke Book* by David Jacobs and illustrator Trevor Dunton (Metro, £4.99).

Here is a sample: How do you describe a cat doing nothing in particular?

Answer: Pussy-footing around. What describes a cat in a panic?

Answer: A cat flap. Readers may think they can produce some better jokes than this. Samples sent to Pet News will be forwarded to the publishers.

Sound idea

CAN YOU name all the birds in your garden by their song only? *Garden Bird Sounds*, an cassette or

birds. Cassette £6.99 plus £1.50 p&p. CD £10.99 plus £1.50 p&p. Details from WildSounds, Cross Street, Norfolk NR25 7XH (01263 741100).

Root cause

MORE THAN 85 per cent of dogs over four years old have periodontal disease, the most common cause of tooth-loss and bad breath, says Kelly Gardner in *Gamekeeper & Sporting Dog*. A booklet, *Dog Owners' Guide to Proper Dental Care*, costs £1.25 from Mailsales, PO Box 15, Waterlooville, Hampshire PO7 6BQ.

Hot stuff

I AM indebted for the following to Stringer's Last Word, a jolly weekly column by Roy Stringer in *Cage & Aviary Birds*. He related the tale of a pigeon that set fire to a tree when it tried to line its nest with a burning cigarette end, and reported on research from Edinburgh University showing that horses that travel to races facing backwards perform better than those facing forwards. "Should we try the same experiment with our birds going to shows?" he asks.

GARDENING

5

Raking up the past

A little detective work could unearth an old Victorian garden, says Stephen Anderton

Gardens do not have to run to acres to have historic bones. Lurking beneath the shrubberies of many a town or country garden can be features or plants of Victorian origin. Once recognised, they may well be worth preserving or developing.

One thinks of the life of a shrub as being 30-40 years at best. But many will last 100 years given sufficient rejuvenative gardening. More often than not, however, it is human hands, not old age, that finishes them off. We get weary of seeing tired old shrubs and prefer to start again rather than go in for pruning and rejuvenation. There is nothing wrong with that. It is the history of all fashion and the last craze is always more despised than something older.

Occasionally, something particularly tough escapes both the spade and old age, and lingers quietly, a testament to a garden's origins, a little bit of Capability Smith or Jones. Look out for old trees of box, particularly at the edge of a shrubbery rather than the back. They may be a remnant of what was once an edging. Box is slow to develop heavy wood and if you find trunks of 4in thick or more you are dealing with plants of a considerable age.

Look out for the three Ls - spotted laurel, cherry laurel and Portugal laurel. Even trunks of Portugal laurel a foot across do not mean Victorian origin; they can make that size in 60-70 years. On the other hand, all three laurels shed freely and the presence of many may suggest a previous Victorian shrubbery of soot-resistant evergreens. Sometimes such plants will have layered themselves or fallen over, so look out for circular groups of the same plant with a stump at the centre.

The three laurels and rhododendrons were a staple of Victorian gardens, easy to grow, evergreen and with plenty of fruit and flower. Their indestructibility has allowed them to



Old iron rollers often survive

outlast many of the other evergreens planted alongside them. If you want to revive an evergreen shrubbery there is no need to stick solely with the survivors. Add some of the less persistent favourites, such as *Osmanthus decorus* for its sweetly-scented flowers, and *Mahonia aquifolium* and *Sarcococca* as a suckering edging. Golden yew and holly will also live things up, as will a rambling rose here and there.

Regular coppicing can lengthen the life of a tree or shrub by many times its usual span. Small-leaved limes can live for 1,200 years and philadelphus and deutzia - garden shrubs which you would expect to last 30-40 years - can last 100. Look for the woody, stooled bases. There may still be forgotten varieties hanging on in older gardens. Even herbaceous plants can linger a long time. Paeonies can last for generations.

Some of the woodier evergreen members of the lily family, such as *Ruscus aculeatus* (butcher's broom) and its relative *R. hypoglossum*, can sucker away in grim root-ridden



The rhododendron was a Victorian favourite. Its hardiness has made it outlast many other evergreens

shade almost forever - or at least until the trees die and conditions allow more rampant sun-loving species to smother them.

The hardware of Victorian and Edwardian gardens lingers more obviously. There are, for example, the rope-tile edgings in dark brown or grey glazed terracotta used to contain gravel or cinder paths. These are now being manufactured again and so the theme can be redeveloped around a garden. Iron garden rollers linger if only because they are too heavy to dispose of.

Victorian houses are often the greatest repositories of period hardware. How often do you see brick-stuccoed gateposts, and huge lime trees far too big for the house but now protected by urban legislation? And behind that, if all has not been cleared for car parking, mounded beds or shrubberies edged with rope tiles, or perhaps somewhere in the gravel or Tarmac a circular bed, which was filled with brightly coloured bedding 100 years ago? There may be 'rockery' work, too. Not

necessarily chunks of real stone but those conglomerations of glass or coking slag, of which the Victorians were so fond. Perhaps, too, there may be remnants of coloured glass or white spar chips, once used as an

alternative or adjunct to bedding. None of this may be fit to save but it deserves investigation. And it is worth considering what kind of garden a house originally had, why it was chosen and how it worked with the house: formality with formality, or rustic with rustic. After that comes the pleasure of deciding how to incorporate these remnants into your new garden, if they deserve it.

Sometimes the most satisfying gardens are those where you can see the gradual development over time, where Smith has adapted Jones as Jones previously adapted Brown. Old bones may not be exciting in themselves but the bones of an old garden can be a good opportunity on which to develop a new garden after your own taste.

For further information, write to the Association of County Garden Truists, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6BP, enclosing an SAE, or contact the Garden History Society (071-608 2409) at the same address.

Gardens to visit, page 13

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q Can you recommend an adhesive or some other means of repairing terracotta pots? - R. Trewellard, Penzance, Cornwall.

A There are so many good pots available that I would hesitate to repair old ones; they are never reliable again. Traditionally, the broken pieces were drilled and wired together. The best adhesives are the epoxy resin type, such as are used for repairing china. The adhesive will not last forever, because the pot is porous and water or salts will loosen the grip but it should last a few years. A combination of adhesive and wires will guard against sudden disintegration and further breakage.

Q I have several *Skimmia japonica* 'Nymans' and 'Rubella', which are 11 years old and doing well but getting too big - about 40in high and 45in across. The gardening books say no pruning is needed. Can I reduce them and, if so, how and when? - Mrs R. Rayment, Twickenham, Middlesex.

A *Skimmia* are a tough, evergreen, berrying bush but slow growing and easily shocked. They do not sprout so easily from old wood. If you can, nibble back and thin your bushes to the required size, cutting in spring just before growth starts. If you have to be more drastic, do it in stages, taking down a third of the branches each year, so that

the bushes are never leafless for long and thus seriously weakened.

Q My soil is sandy and, despite adding plenty of compost and watering during drought, roses do not do well. My favourite rose, 'Sutter's Gold', a deep gold flushed with pink, has survived, but I lost the others. Where can I buy more 'Sutter's Gold'? - Mrs E.W. Bathgate, Cupar, Fife.

A 'Sutter's Gold' is an upright growing hybrid tea rose and this group do not do well on sand. You might have more success on sand with rugosa roses, or hybrid musks, or Scotch briar roses (varieties of *R. pimpinellifolia*). You can buy 'Sutter's Gold' from rose specialists such as David Austin (£25 minimum charge) or Peter Beales (no minimum charge), or from smaller firms such as Burrows Roses, Meadow Croft, Spondon Road, Dale Abbey, Derby DE7 4PQ (£3 minimum charge) and Gandy's Roses, North Kilworth, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 6HZ.

Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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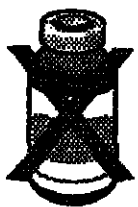
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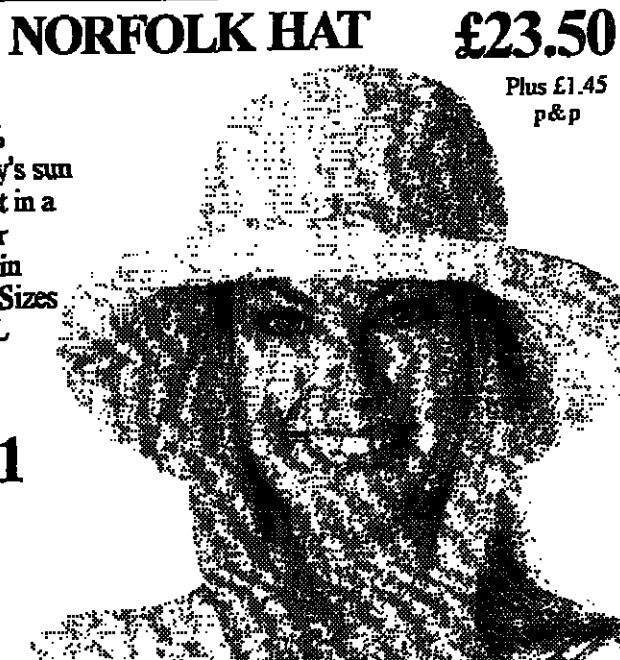
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Golfing News

by Mike Hensen

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SHOPPING

7

Kite-flying is no longer child's play. Thanks to the latest stunt models it has taken off as a family pastime

Play the power game just by pulling a few strings



Children adore it and parents can hardly resist it either: not only does the air and exercise tame hyperactive youngsters, but it can also satisfy a teenager's need to look "cool".

Kite-flying can be peaceful and relaxing, or an adrenalin-soaked, physically exhausting affair. Unlike tennis, it needn't depend on strength and stamina, so father is not automatically star of the show.

Far from being child's play, kite-flying has become mainly an adult pastime, largely because of the advent of power-kiting. Big power kites have been around since the early 1980s but it's only now, in line with the fashion for adventure/exhilaration sports, that power-kiting has taken off in mass-market terms. (Power-kiting means forward propulsion using a kite, from roller-blading to kite-skiing on water or snow.)

Kite-buggering, using an agile three-wheeler steered with the feet for example, is a popular pastime in London on Blackheath or Hackney Marshes. It's cheaper and requires less room than sand-yachting.

For serious daredevils there's the dangerous kite-jumping: the kite catapults you up off the ground and you then glide or plummet back down. The world record jump is a nail-biting 32 metres (about 105ft) long at a height of about 12 metres (about 40ft).

Kites, invented in China about 3,000 years ago, have progressed further since the Kite Store opened in Covent Garden, London, in 1976. Gone are the days of the canvas and wood box kites. By the early 1990s steerable, acrobatic, two-line stunt kites were outselling their static, non-maneuvrable single-line counterparts by around 4:1.

Kites have turned high-tech, borrowing from other sports, such as sailing (adopting lightweight, non-porous ripstop nylon sails), archery (ultra-light carbon fibre frames) and fishing (high-performance Dyneema and Spectra

KITES IN FLIGHT

1. WORLDS APART BLAZER (£9.99)

A traditional two-line stunt kite with long flowing tail. For stockists ring 0171-622 0171.

2. WORLDS APART VORTEX (£35)

Intermediate level, from age 12-plus. For stockists ring 01804 884441.

3. REVOLUTION 1.5 (£159.95)

Good for learning to fly quad-line. Available from the Kite Store, 48 Neal Street, London WC2 (0171-836 1666) and by mail order (p&h from £5).

4. AIRCRAFT GYRO (£19.99)

Small sport stunt kite. From age eight. For stockists ring 01804 864441.

5. FLEXIFOIL SUPER 10 (£170)

For serious power kite fliers only; not suitable for children under 14. For stockists ring 01353 723131.

6. POWERHOUSE BLADE (£29.95)

Delta-wing sport stunt kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

THE GRIFFIN (not shown, £66)

Full-size sport stunt kite. From age 10. For stockists ring 0117-923 2084.

THE JAM SESSION (not shown, £119)

Two-line trick kite. For intermediates upwards, from age 14-15. For stockists ring 01752 670156.

lines, derived from fishing twine).

Today, even the most basic diamond-shaped kite, such as the best-selling Worlds Apart Blazer, comes with a ripstop nylon sail. It's a popular knockabout model for beginners, even if it looks old-fashioned compared with the Aircraft Gyro. The latter is a small version of the sport kites — those hang-glider lookalikes (also called delta-wing or swept-wing) that swooped on

to the scene in the early 1990s. At this kind of price you can get good quality for your money; the frame is of lightweight carbon fibre (today's preferred material, as opposed to the Blazer's fibreglass) and it's fast.

The Worlds Apart Vortex is a slightly larger version with rugged fixtures and attractive panelling. It has a broad wind range which means durability, high performance and crisp handling. It's also relatively forgiving and would suit lesser-skilled intermediates.

The Griffin by Martin Lester is a full-size, swept-wing sport stunt kite aimed at beginners and intermediates. It has a 5-20 mph wind range and is good for learning precision flying and some tricks. "The materials haven't moved on much in the last couple of years. You're still looking at ripstop nylon on carbon fibre," says Andy King, co-owner of the Kite Store. "The real development lies in the public's more sophisticated tastes. They want power and speed, finesse and tricks."

In the same vein as power kites come the bigger sport kites, such as the Powerhouse Blade, which are alarmingly powerful. "A real head-banger's kite for those who want power, speed, exhilaration and life in the fast lane," Mr King says. Like a windsurfer, it has a highly engineered, battened sail shape, which makes maximum use of the wind and enables very fast turns.

The Jam Session by HQ Invento is

flavour of the moment for finesse flying, another trend in the market. This involves stalling the kite and then doing tricks, such as axels (flipping the whole kite around). Just as people see the tennis stars at Wimbledon and want to copy their techniques, so kite-flying enthusiasts want to learn all the flips, cascades, under axels and over axels they've seen demonstrated at kite festivals.

The Flexifoil Super Ten is an adults-only power kite. Mr King irreverently refers to it as "the flying duver", but sells about 200 a year of them at £170 each. He says: "It doesn't matter that these large power kites have been around since the early 1980s, it's what people are doing with them that has made them so fashionable today."

Finally, for the ultimate in control (or the ultimate in confusion for two-line fliers who will have to un-learn two-line techniques) there are the four-line kites which can fly both backwards and forwards, stop dead or do propeller spins. The four-line Revolution 1.5 imported from Santiago, California, does not come cheap, but is excellent to learn on: not too fast, nor too slow, and it has the broadest wind range around.

SOPHIE CHAMIER

LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

■ Kite Society of Great Britain. PO Box 2274, Great Horkeley, Colchester, Essex CO6 4AY. Annual membership — £9, families £10. OAPs £7 — includes four copies of *The Kiteflier* magazine. The handbook lists kite specialist shops indicating those offering discounts of 5-10 per cent to members.

■ Chris Matheson, 172 Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0JL (0171-923 0755). Private tuition costs £20 per hour; group tuition for fifteen people, £10 per person for a 2½-hour session. Mr Matheson is a kite designer who competed for three years at national level. His classes are for those with some knowledge of kite flying.

■ Richard Marsh of Trade-wind Kites in Reading (01734 568848) hosts the 1996 Phoenix Master Class series with Andrew Lomas. Each one-hour session costs £12.50 per flier, with a maximum of three pupils per instructor. All levels of flier are catered for.

■ Dodd Gross teaching videos are international best-sellers. *Flight School 2* teaches trick flying and *Flight School 3* advanced trick-flying (both £11.99). Widely available in kite shops. (Call 01225 466661 for local stockists.)

■ Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) runs kite weeks in the conservation area of Portugal's Algarve from August 29, September 5, 12, 19,

26 and October 3. The cost is a supplement of £50 per adult or £40 for under-16s, added to the basic self-catering holiday price of between £300-£350 per person (including flights, car hire, accommodation and insurance). The week includes three half-day guided kite sessions in groups of up to ten. Use of equipment is free during lessons. Individual two-hour lessons in specialist areas, such as power kiting, costs £10. ■ Major kite festivals: August 24-26, Portsmouth (contact Kite Society above); August 31-September 1, Canterbury (contact A. Sage, 01227 462786); September 7-8, Bristol (contact Avril Baker, 0117 9772002).

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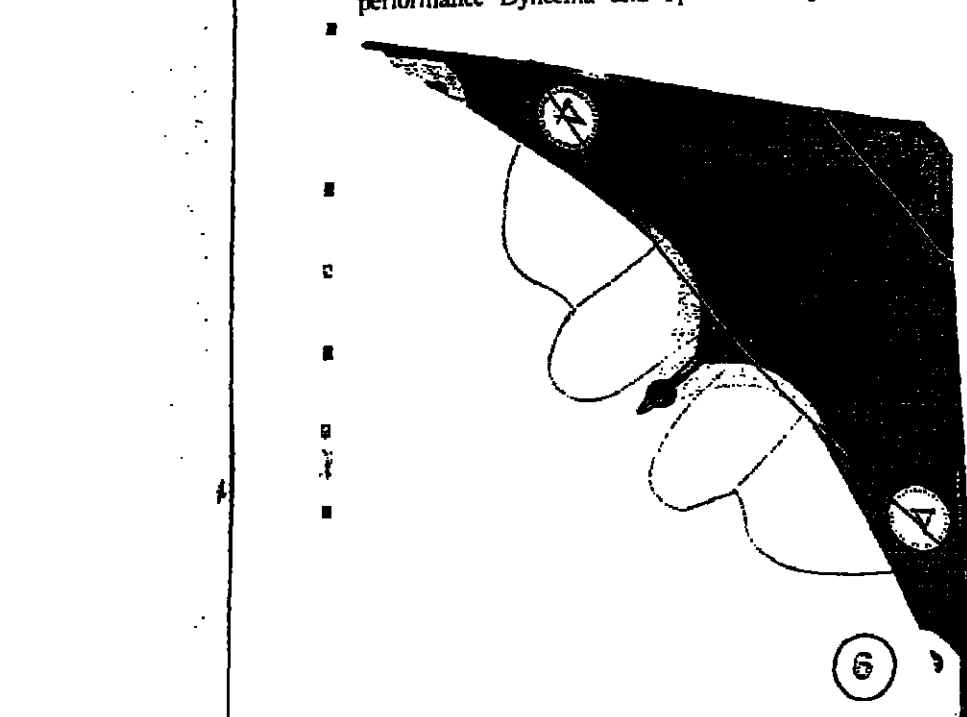
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PROPERTY.

From holiday to second home

The weekend cottage can often become a useful source of income

Even on holiday, the British are attracted to "For Sale" signs. Estate agents' windows in pretty market towns or sunny seaside resorts throughout Britain possess the same appeal. For the idea of owning a holiday cottage is at its most appealing when families discover the near-perfect retreat from home and work.

Although far less daunting than moving house, buying a holiday home involves doing your homework. Vital considerations include choosing the right location at the right distance from home, finding the best way to finance the purchase, assessing whether the property can raise an income through letting and deciding whether you are going to become bored with holidays in the same place.

Ian and Pat Coupar, a chemical engineer and a teacher respectively, debated all those issues when they spotted a cottage for sale in Norfolk during a holiday.

They searched libraries and bookshops for advice and guidance on the pros and cons and, although there were books on buying abroad, there was nothing on a second UK home, Mr Coupar says.

They went ahead anyway, and have now written their own guide to the process. Chapter headings — on why buy, location, style and type, searching and financing, possible income, budget and management, and risks — cover the essential areas.

"One thing we hadn't really considered was how we were going to furnish the place," says Mr Coupar. "The father of three teenage sons. But in the end we were lucky because the house was already a holiday cottage and its owner asked if we were interested in buying the contents."

So for an extra £800, their three-bedroom cottage came fully furnished with everything from books and records to games and even an artificial Christmas tree.

That was two years ago and since



Pat and Ian Coupar outside their holiday cottage in Norfolk: "Always do your homework and take professional advice"

then the Coupars, who live two hours away in Bromley, Kent, and their friends and relatives have enjoyed dozens of weekends and longer holidays in the cottage.

Most holiday-home owners believe that a two-hour drive makes a weekend visit easy and a day-trip for inspection feasible. A much longer journey makes regular journeys more difficult and more expensive.

"Provided you do your homework and take professional advice, most of the risks can be limited or eradicated. We are glad we decided to follow our initial instincts and take the plunge," Mr Coupar says.

Buying a holiday home is often completed with the help of a second mortgage, more freely available now than some years ago. Around 50 building societies and other lenders offer mortgages for second homes, but many charge a higher interest rate if the property is let for commercial gain. Halifax Mortgage Services, a subsidiary of the Halifax building society, offers a Second Asset Mortgage at the same base rate as other home loans. Management consultant

Andy Macey found the mortgage ideal to finance his purchase of a three-bedroom period cottage in Westerham, Kent, half an hour from his home. He and his wife spend almost every weekend there.

"We bought a smaller place in the

"It is one thing to spend two weeks in an idyllic spot, another for it to become a second home"

same village a year before but, when this property came on the market, we decided to buy it," he says. "The building society was very helpful."

Although Mr Macey does not let out his second home, many owners use theirs to generate income and choose to place it with a holiday marketing organisation. English

Country Cottages (ECC) already promotes 2,800 properties in the UK — from a simple cottage in Devon without electricity to an eight-bedroom manor house with indoor swimming pool. Tim Fullam, ECC's marketing director, says Dorset, Sussex, Hampshire, Wiltshire and south Cornwall are the most popular in the summer; in the winter it is the Cotswolds.

ECC, which produces an owners' guide setting out the required standard of accommodation, charges commission of 21.5 per cent of the gross rentals achieved, plus VAT.

Owning and letting a holiday property can be a tax-efficient investment, if the arrangements conform to the qualifying rules. The property must be in the UK, must be furnished, and the lettings must be made on a commercial basis, for a specified minimum period each year. It must be available to the public for letting for 140 days in a year, and it must achieve a minimum let of 70 days. If those conditions are met, any profits are regarded as earned income and interest on money bor-

rowed to buy the property can be set against income for tax purposes.

Chartered accountants Binder Hamlyn publish a *Live and Let* guide to taxation of both residential and holiday letting, but make it clear that it is a general guide which cannot take the place of specific professional advice.

One issue that cannot be solved by professionals is whether the novelty factor of the house and surrounding area will wear off. It is one thing to spend two weeks in an idyllic spot, but another for it to be a second home.

For Harold Smith, a semi-retired builders' merchant, the opposite is true. Four years ago he bought a derelict property on Ireland's Cork coast, which has become a retreat for him and his wife.

"I had spent a great deal of time in Ireland, on holiday and on business, before I saw this place," says Mr Smith, who lives in Lancashire. "It was affordable and in an unbeatable position." But it took almost two years before the rebuilt three-bedroom property was habitable.

"Having work done at a distance can be a problem," he says. The couple now either fly to Cork for a short stay or use the Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire ferry to take the car for a longer holiday. "It does mean we rarely go anywhere else but we love it there. Ireland is now an extension of our lives."

"Period stone-built farmhouses are the most popular, usually with a minimum of an acre of land," estate agent Charles McCarthy, based in County Cork, says. "A good quality house will cost between £70,000 and £150,000 and the nearer the coast it is, the more expensive it will be."

LYNNE GREENWOOD

- A Guide to Buying a Holiday Cottage in England by Pat and Ian Coupar, from Holiday Cottages, PO Box 42, Hove, Brighton, Kent BN2 7RU (£5 + 75p p&hp).
- Live and Let taxation guide from Binder Hamlyn, 20 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BH (0171-466 6504).
- English Country Cottages, Grove Farm Barns, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (01263 864293).
- In The Six, national property newspaper specialising in country homes, at Slaggyford, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 7NW (01434 381409).

Next week: homes on the coast

FOR SALE

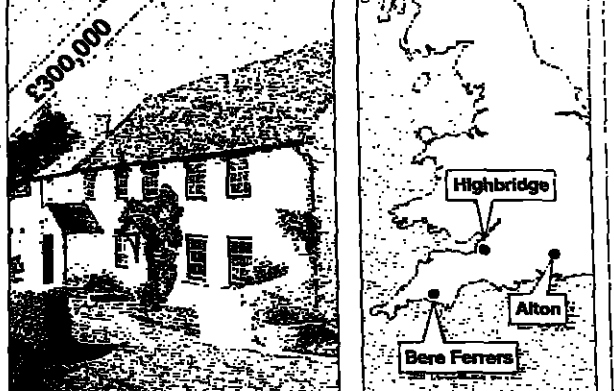
ABOUT £325,000



HAMPSHIRE
Pleasant House, High Street, Selborne, Alton. Grade II listed 18th-century village house in a walled garden. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom and scullery. Outbuildings and garaging. About £345,000 (Hamptons, 01420 86868).



DEVON
Holloway Farm, Bere Ferrers. A 18th-century farmhouse in 30 acres of gardens and farmland, with 300 metres of water frontage. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), two reception rooms, kitchen and utility. Self-contained two-bedroom cottage and two detached timber bungalows. About £300,000 (Fullfords, 01382 412007).



SOMERSET
Elm Tree Farm, Mark, Highbridge. A 19th-century house in 19 acres, with 12 loose boxes, feed room/barn, horsebox garage, Dutch barn, railed outdoor school and five paddocks. Five bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, sitting room, dining room, two kitchens. Self-contained one-bedroom annexe. About £300,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01982 215631).

CHERYL TAYLOR

STRATFORD ROAD
Kensington W8

In a pretty street, a spacious south facing Victorian house on four floors requiring refurbishment.

4 bedrooms,
3 bathrooms,
5 reception rooms,
kitchen, conservatory,
utility area,
cloakroom, attractive garden.

Freehold
£645,000

KENSINGTON:
0171-727 0705

BERKSHIRE - Near Kintbury Price Guide: £250,000

With an immaculate garden, a charming cottage in a quiet lane amidst rolling farmland about 2 miles from this popular village & 8 miles from Newbury. 3 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps, kit, barn.

NEWBURY: 01635 523225

OXFORDSHIRE
Bletchington

A detached stone cottage situated in this popular North Oxfordshire village. 2 bedrooms, bathroom, large sitting room with dining area, kitchen, cloakroom, garage and garden.

Price Guide: £135,000

OXFORD:
01865 311522

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An imposing Georgian house with an adjoining coach house, a delightful, established, west facing garden and carriage drive (shared). Main house: 6 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit/utility, 34m (113ft) garden, garage, driveway. Coach house: 3 beds, bath, shower rm, 2 receps, kitchen.

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OXFORD - Harcourt Hill For sale or to let

With uninterrupted views over the Oxford Spas and Chilterns, a well-appointed house with paddocks. 5 beds, 2 dressing rms, 4 baths, shower rm, 4 receps, kit, b'fast rm, domestic offices, gymnasium/office, S/c 1 bed annexe, dble garage, gardens, grounds. About 4.45 ha (11 acres).

OXFORD: 01865 311522

CLAPHAM COMMON
NORTHSIDE, SW4

With lovely views over the Common, an elegant listed house, beautifully modernised, near an interesting selection of shops and restaurants plus underground station.

3 bedrooms,
2 bathrooms,
3 receptions, kitchen,
Flat with 2 rooms,
kitchen, shower rm,
Large garden and garage.

Freehold

BATTERSEA:
0171-228 0174

HAMPSHIRE - Milford on Sea Price Guide: £295,000

A handsome Grade II listed 18th century village house in need of modernisation. 5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, study, kit, fine recep hall, 2 attic rms, dble garage, workshop, games rm, gdn.

LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

HAMPSHIRE
Bartley, Near Lyndhurst

A refurbished period farmhouse with outbuildings, garden and paddocks of about 0.8 ha (2 acres). 3 beds, bath, recep hall/family rm, 2 receps, b'fast rm, kit, double garage, stable, manège. Potential to extend subject to renewing previous consent.

LYMINGTON:
01590 677233

Samuel Beckett with a dash of Buster Keaton

LIKE Somerset Maugham's his stories are not, but James Kelman's 1987 collection, *Greyhound for Breakfast*, newly reissued by Minerva (£6.99, ISBN 0 7493 8616 9), is quite the most substantial in this batch of recent titles. For my money, the book continues to be, no doubt unintentionally, Kelman's best yet in the stakes for Parnassus. It is the observation, the humour and wit, the rhythms and humanity, the undocumentary imagination and linguistic daring — what? no safety net? — which make these 47 prose poems about everyday working-class life so enthralling. If you must have a

comparison, here is Samuel Beckett faced with Buster Keaton.

I cannot muster as much enthusiasm for Kelman's friend and protégée, Agnes Owens, whose earlier book of stories, *Lean Tales*, was co-authored with him and Alasdair Gray. She shares the same vision as Gray and Kelman but, in her new collection, *People Like That* (Bloomsbury, £13.99, ISBN 0 7475 2522 6), her prose lacks poetry and an ability to use language to intensify experience. There is a fear of soaring. Which is a shame as Owens's reports on the elderly, the homeless and the drug-addicted are most compassionate.

Giles Gordon reviews short stories, from witty working-class observations to a *Woman's Hour* anniversary anthology

Liz Heron's first collection, *A Red River* (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 85381 869 0), at its best recalls Rose Tremain's marvellous "historical" stories although the writing is more pared down, more documentary. The title story, about an uprising against a British mining company in Spain near the end of the 19th century, cries out to be treated at novel length as the exploration of character here is rudimentary. The story at first seems to be about the

marriage between an Edinburgh man working for the company and his Spanish bride, but Heron is more interested in exploring social wrongs, which is her prerogative, than private lives.

Hot Chicken Wings by Jyl Lynn Felman (Virago, £6.99, ISBN 1 86049 010 7) is winsomely embarrassing, and not only for the numerous, gushing acknowledgements and the appalling introduction, "The forbidden or what makes

me a Jewish lesbian writer". If she is happy being Jewish and lesbian, then I am happy for her, but this book, published in America in 1992, seems more a crusade (perhaps to convince herself?) than a work of art.

The publisher Serpent's Tail frequently comes up with intelligent group anthologies of short stories, back rubs (£8.99, ISBN 1 85242 394 3) is an intriguing concept, a collection of new stories

by women celebrating change in women's lives. The subjects embraced including orgasm, death, puberty and separation. The authors include A. L. Kennedy, Janette Turner Hospital, Susan Hill and Erica Wagner.

Another "theme" collection is Virago's *Short Circuits* (£6.99, ISBN 1 85381 868 2), edited by Melanie Silgado, in which 12 new writers explore "uncomfortable territories".

The cumbrously entitled *Woman's Hour 50th Anniversary Short Story Collection*, published jointly by Penguin and BBC Books (£6.99, ISBN 0 14 025797 7), is

edited and introduced by Di Speirs, the programme's serials producer. Each of the 17 stories here — by the likes of Elizabeth Taylor, Sylvia Townsend Warner, Margaret Atwood, E. Annie Proulx and Jeanette Winterson — is a gem.

Finally, Clare Francis and Ondine Upton have put together *A Feast of Stories* (Pan, £5.99, ISBN 0 330 34492 7). The contributors include Douglas Adams, Jeffrey Archer, Iain Banks, Catherine Cookson, Jilly Cooper and Dick Francis — published in aid of the charity Action for ME. It is a thumping good read, if you like that sort of thing.

Peter Millar on Hammond Innes

Phew! what a scorcher

AT THE AGE of 83, the most amazing thing about Hammond Innes is that he is still turning them out. *Delta Connection* is his thirtieth work of fiction — there have also been two travel books and a history of the Conquistadors — and will doubtless sell as well as any of the others.

The hardback packaging, with a dramatic dust-cover illustration of a locomotive



Innes cliff-hanger

belching black smoke hurtling between sheer cliff walls through a snowy mountain pass, just about sums it all up. This is rip-snorting adventure yarn stuff in the best Boys' Own tradition.

True, Innes has brought the action bang up to date — well, relatively — setting the beginning of his tale in the mayhem of Romania when the Ceausescu's nasty little empire was crumbling bloodily around them. Our hero, Paul Cartwright, gets caught up in the murder of a Securitate man, the excuse to send him on a madcap escape via the Danube delta. Clearly it never

■ **DELTA CONNECTION**
By Hammond Innes
Macmillan £15.99
ISBN 0 333 63290 7

occurs to him that in the circumstances of the time — when Securitate men overnight became fair game for anyone with a grudge and a gun — he would have done just as well to stay put. Instead of which, however, he is off on the lam accompanied only by a wild woman with a hair lip and a Kalashnikov, who soon turns out to be the sister-by-adoption of an erotic dancer with whom Cartwright once had a one-night fling. But for the rest of their relationship it is gentlemen's rules and no sex, please, we're British.

Indeed British in a way they don't make 'em any more, even in Wilbur Smith novels.

There is lots more of this at a pace so cracking there is little time for reflection, least of all on the part of our hero trekking up the northwest frontier, into the Parnis and Tajikistan, being shot at into the bargain, all at the behest of some vaguely defined mining resources exploration company.

So just what is it in the end that brings together the woman with the hair lip, the dirty dancer, a quixotic French cameraman — zut alors! — and a group of troglodyte descendants of lost Vikings with a liking for high technology?

Who knows? And if you have got that far, who cares? You're probably out of breath anyway. Never fear, the octogenarian Hammond's payoff suggests a sequel. Phew! I wonder what he takes.



Marlene Dietrich photographed by Clarence Sinclair Bull with her cabochon emerald and diamond bracelets, from *Hollywood Jewels* by Penny Proddow, Debra Healy and Marion Fasel (Abradale Press, £17.95, ISBN 0 8109 8145 9)

The meaning of life

THREE AIDS widowers dine together every Saturday night in southern California. Apart from their bereavement they have nothing in common. Sonny Cevethas, beautiful and dispossessed, works as a waiter, sculpts his body in the gym and dreams of reincarnation. Dell Espinoza, a gardener and man of property, burns with a fury that is focused on a loathsome televangelist who publicly thanks God for AIDS as a way of ridding the earth of pervers. The leader of the three, older than the others and more direct in his unhappiness, is Steven Shaw.

The novel opens a year and six days after Steven's lover, Victor, died. By then Sonny is looking for a new partner; Dell is threatening to poison

AFTERLIFE
By Paul Monette
Abacus £6.99
ISBN 0 349 10772 6

the reservoirs with AIDS-infected blood; Steven, almost beyond tears, is poised for a return to work and perhaps to ordinary life.

All of them are HIV-positive. Into Steven's life comes Mark Inman, an important television executive who was once Victor's lover. Mark has sex with lots of men and fears emotional attachment even more than the plague. Steven falls in love with him.

Afterlife is about their struggle to find some meaning in a world where they and all their gay friends are dying or dead. What is the point of working



Monette: frank emotions

or trying to love — or even watering the garden — when you have only a year or two to live? Gradually each of the three widowers finds a way — a quite different way — of

dealing with the hopelessness.

Towards the end of the novel, when Steven and Mark are in the cemetery after yet another funeral, Mark, thinking about a possible AIDS-less future, asks: "Will anyone understand what it was like?"

If they read this often funny and extraordinarily moving novel, they might. It is frank about aspects of the gay male world that other people find so hard to understand: the cruising, the violence and the loveless coupling.

But there is so much love in Steven and some of the other characters, and so much compassion, that in the end the reader is left only with an aching sadness.

KATE HATFIELD

Four dozen free-range mysteries

NOT MANY of the people who love Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* know that she also wrote the short story on which Hitchcock's terrifying film *The Birds* was based. Carlton has now bought up the rights to 48 of her stories, and will be making TV films of them. Many of the stories are thrillers, and her son, Kits Browning, says "She always longed to be remembered as a

writer of mystery and sometimes terror, rather than as a romantic novelist." Now she may be lucky.

■ *The TLS is famous for its unusual correspondence, and the latest controversy is about when soldiers first marched in step. Some authors believe*

that it was in about 1600, but John Keegan maintains in a letter that it was not until about 1750. Earlier attempts were abandoned because, says Keegan, marching in step "had to wait for engineered roads and purpose-built parade grounds". No more shuffling after that.

SHORTLY TO appear: Jeffrey Robinson's new novel, *The Hotel* (Simon & Schuster), based on five months he spent behind the scenes in a luxury hotel in England. Kings arrive with their own beds, guests want to rent elephants, the hotel sells "sleep and sex" and the illusion of a lost time. It's a long way from the staid goings-on in Arnold Bennett's *The Grand Babylon Hotel*.

Wine, women and surgery

■ **THE DONOR**
By Christiaan Barnard
Michael Joseph, £15.99
ISBN 0 7181 4152 0

THERE is something awfully familiar about Dr Rodney Barnes, the main character in Christiaan Barnard's novel. For a start, he is an internationally famous South African heart-transplant surgeon — and there are not too many of those that spring to mind. He is also attractive and charismatic, with a penchant for fine wines and fast women. It is unwise to speculate how far such details are intended to be autobiographical.

The novel opens with our hero getting to grips with the everyday problems of heart-transplant surgery. When we first encounter Dr Barnes, he is experimenting with transplanting the hearts of recently executed criminals into his patients.

Gruesome as these passages are, they at least describe things within the realm of possibility; later episodes read like the more dubious kind of science fiction. Such shock-horror fantasies about medical science seem more appropriate to the tabloid press than to so eminent a practitioner as the author.



Barnard: medical fiction

■ **THE ACCOMPLICE**
By Elizabeth Ironside
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99
ISBN 0 340 64036 7

ZITA DAUNTSEY enjoys a pleasantly uneventful existence working as a solicitor in a small town in the Home Counties. Then the skeleton of a child is unearthed in the garden of a house owned by one of her clients — and suddenly the certainties of Zita's life are undermined.

As she tries to identify the corpse, and thus exonerate her elderly client, Jean Lofus, from suspicion of murder, she uncovers a whole range of

secrets. For Jean, it transpires, was formerly Yevgenia Chornoukaya — forced to leave Russia in the 1950s to escape the Stalinist purges. When Zita, a young Russian girl, arrives at Jean's house, claiming to be a distant relative, Jean sees her chance of making amends. But Zita has secrets of her own...

■ **WHAT SHE WANTED**
By Nicky Singer
Orion, £9.99
ISBN 0 7 280 491 X

SUZANNAH McCALL is a successful barrister in her late thirties, whose private life, until the point the novel opens, has been restricted to a series of casual affairs and one more serious involvement with a married man. Then she meets Jem, an impoverished writer 12 years her junior, and finds out what it is like to be the object of a romantic fixation.

The moral of Nicky Singer's entertaining fable seems to be that the more of a "New Woman" you are, the less you are likely to be attracted to a "New Man". Whatever the truth of this, the novel is fluent, and offers some nicely ironic observations.

CHRISTINA KONING

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So good it's criminal

I CANNOT understand why James Lee Burke has not attracted the British readership his excellence deserves.

He is as good as Elmore Leonard and Charles Willeford at their best, which is the highest praise I can think of. His cop, Dave Robicheaux, Vietnam veteran, former alcoholic, a dignified, tormented outsider with a scarred past and anguish in his dreams, is the deepest, most fully developed character in American crime fiction. The dialogue crackles with vitality and realism. The plots are complex yet controlled; tension builds not with shock-bang crudity but in little subtle steps, hardly noticeable until a pulverising, shocking, act takes place.

Above all, perhaps, Burke's effectiveness comes from his mastery of the social milieu in which Robicheaux operates. He works in New Orleans but his home and his soul are in the nearby Cajun swamplands, a dark and brooding part of the American South where race, poverty and revenge still dominate the passions of its inhabitants.

In *Cadillac Jukebox*, Aaron Crown, a poor-white former Klansman convicted, after more than 25 years, of killing a black civil rights leader in

■ **CADILLAC JUKEBOX**
By James Lee Burke
Orion £15.99
ISBN 0 7528 0452 9

the 1960s, suddenly starts proclaiming the innocence he never claimed at his trial. His attempts to convince Robicheaux are linked somehow with the campaign for State governor of local sleazebag Buford LaRose, whose provocatively sexy wife Karyn was once an unforgettable bedmate of Robicheaux's. The cop's reluctant involvement brings him into edgy contact with a vividly portrayed array of mobsters, drug-traders, prostitutes, drunks and general low-lifers. Burke's descriptions have that hint of surreality — in the landscape, in the characters, in Robicheaux's thoughts — which enhance their impact from the merely powerful to the exceptional.

Burke's portrait of a stubborn, flawed but honest man trying to retain his dignity and his family when all around him are steeped in pessimism, corruption or plain inability to cope ranks with the best of American writing, never mind just American crime writing.

MARCEL BERLINS

TEENAGE FICTION

Lessons in the playground

TEMPTING fans from the unstopably popular Point Horror series this summer are a welcome range of well-written thrillers. Halfway between farce and drama, *Egghead* by Steve May (Mammoth, £3.99, ISBN 0 749 7282 2) combines an atmosphere of creeping horror with the dynamics of the playground. Trying to impress the school gang, Billy drops an egg on the head of a holiday-maker. Not once, but twice. Maddened, Egghead wants revenge.

As Billy's fears increase, tension rises and the gang of 13 and 14-year-olds pick on him in a way that is worse than punching: "Every time they see you, they nudge each other and pretend they're going to laugh, but they're holding it in with their hands over their faces, and then, as soon as you move away,

they're howling with laughter behind your back." May — familiar to me as a challenging radio dramatist — has written a book of depth and understanding which is also a cracking read.

By coincidence, *World-Fater* by Robert Swindells (Corgi, £3.50, ISBN 0 448 6349 X) is also concerned with eggs and, obliquely, with bullying. In this case, the egg comes in the form of a mysterious new planet which threatens the universe, baffles the scientists but is coolly dealt with by a tip-off from Orville, a diffident and unpopular boy. This is an ambitious thriller, involving foreign powers, kidnapping, space probes and the cultivation of eggs. It is surprising, considering that Orville continues to be bullied at school.

MAUREEN OWEN

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK				Last week	No. weeks
1	APPASSIONATA Jilly Cooper (Bantam)	£16.99	3	16	
2	THE RUNAWAY JURY John Grisham (Century)	£12.99	1	12	
3	POPCORN Ben Elton (Simon & Schuster)	£14.99	6	2	
4	THE FOURTH ESTATE Jeffrey Archer (HarperCollins)	£16.99	2	9	
5	WHEEL OF TIME BOOK 7: CROWN OF SWORDS Robert Jordan (Orbit)	£17.99	5	5	
6	STAND BY, STAND BY Chris Ryan (Century)	£15.99	0	1	
7	MICHELIN RED GUIDE: FRANCE 1996 (Michelin)	£4.50	0	1	
8	EXCESSION Iain M. Banks (Orbit)	£15.99	0	7	
9	KEEPER OF GENESIS Robert Bauval & Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	10	7	
10	FEET OF CLAY Terry Pratchett (Gollancz)	£15.99	9	10	
PAPERBACK				Last week	No. weeks
1	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND Bill Bryson (Black Swan)	£6.99	0	1	
2	GREEN MILE 5: NIGHT JOURNEY Stephen King (Penguin)	£1.99	1	2	
3	HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Indigo)	£5.99	3	18	
4	THE GHOST ROAD Pat Barker (Penguin)	£6.99	4	5	
5	SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder (Phoenix)	£6.00	5	23	
6	FROM POTTER'S FIELD Patricia Cornwell (Warner)	£5.99	2	7	
7	THE LOST WORLD Michael Crichton (Arrow)	£5.99	7	6	
8	MEMNOCH THE DEVIL Anne Rice (Arrow)	£5.99	0	1	
9	THE HORSE WHISPERER Nicholas Evans (Corgi)	£5.99	6	10	
10	ECSTASY Irvine Welsh (Jonathan Cape)	£9.99	13	11	
11	BELGARTH THE SORCERER David Eddings (HarperCollins)	£6.99	9	3	
12	REGENERATION Pat Barker (Penguin)	£5.99	14	3	
13	THE MOOR'S LAST SIGH Salman Rushdie (Vintage)	£6.99	11	6	
14	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM Kate Atkinson (Black Swan)	£6.99	15	22	
15	OF LOVE AND OTHER DEMONS Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Penguin)	£5.99	16	6	
16	INDEPENDENCE DAY Richard Ford (Harvill)	£6.99	0	3	
17	JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH Roald Dahl (Puffin)	£3.99	0	1	
18	THE PILLARS OF HERCULES Paul Theroux (Penguin)	£6.99	0	4	
19	INDEPENDENCE DAY Dean Devlin (Bantam)	£4.99	0	1	
20	COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES John Page (HMSO)	£9.99	10	5	

Any books from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1571 Fax: 0171 580 7480

0800 120 130

Elizabeth Buchan on Tim Waterstone's moving but disappointing new novel about four men

On the trail of Nazi gold



Alex Benzie: an ambitious and complex first novel

■ THE YEARS' MIDNIGHT
By Alex Benzie
Penguin, £7.99
ISBN 0 14 125130 8

BY ANY reckoning, this great leviathan of a novel is an impressive achievement: for a first novel it is a remarkable one. Alex Benzie reveals his mastery as a storyteller and his narration of the individual stories of the inhabitants of a Scottish village resonates against the dilemmas of the human condition.

Benzie begins his novel in the Scottish village of Aberlewin in the late 18th century, where womanising, plain-speaking Macpherson is hanged for a crime he did not commit. The angry villagers climb up the village clocktower and smash the clock. One hundred years

AT THE moments when it pauses for breath, this novel is very good: honest, serious and ambitious.

In England, a quartet of Holocaust survivors are pursuing very different lives. Amos Bronowski, an academic, marries the shy and awkward Miranda, an English teacher at a posh London girls' school, and is compiling a report on the death camps, which he plans to publish. Courtesy of his wife, Lewis Cohen has infiltrated himself into the powerful Jewish establishment and is, supposedly, at the pinnacle of a successful law career. Yet, there are

■ A PASSAGE OF LIVES
By Tim Waterstone
Headline Review, £16.99
ISBN 0 7472 1881 2

questions about his probity. A widower, Gareth Edel focuses his energies on his bookshop and on his work as a secret agent for the World Jewish Council. Finally, the brilliant and irretrievably damaged Mariss Steiner is living in a hotel where he is free to construct his fantasies, some of which are dangerous.

A terrible and common past provides a link, and the key, to the

psychology of the men who seek out or contrive situations which subtly reinforce a profound pessimism and guilt. They are also bound by a common interest in the fate of the millions stolen from the Jews by the Nazis, which are lying in secret Swiss bank accounts. Who is going to lay their hands on this wealth and for what purpose?

Tim Waterstone unravels a complex story in which the scrupulous and sanctified are as questionable as the greedy and unscrupulous. He writes densely and thoughtfully and, sometimes, movingly — his portrait

of a mother agonising over her dying child is unbearable — and in his construction of Miranda he demonstrates an admirable grasp of the female soul. What mars his achievements is the choppy structure — 76 chapters in 312 pages — with the result that the plot and the narrative are thrown from pillar to post. All novels have an internal rhythm to which the reader unconsciously responds, and the best have an intrinsic harmony with the development of character, theme and language. In this respect, *A Passage of Lives* is disappointing.



Waterstone: honest



Home Life and Holidays, from *The Cotswolds Life and Traditions* by June Lewis, which explores facets of life in the Cotswold Hills seen through the eyes of local people (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99, ISBN 0 297 83293 X)

Guys behaving badly

■ CONFESSIONS OF AN IVY LEAGUE BOOKIE
By Peter Alson
Fourth Estate, £7.99
ISBN 1 8502 497 4

Anthony Holden puts money on a guaranteed success story

FAST going nowhere as a writer, little further in a long-distance romance, and broke, thirty-something Peter Alson reluctantly trades in his scruples for an illegal job as a Manhattan bookmaker. One Ivy League buddy-turned-bookie already drives a Saab convertible, complete with stylish broad in the passenger seat. So the risks look well worth a few sleepless nights wondering what a nice boy like him is doing in a job like this.

"Look who we got here," says Bob, the office wag, on Alson's arrival. "We got one guy, Spanky, who's a fat, smelly slob with a bad attitude. We got another, Michael, who's deeply depressed and doesn't know it. We got Monkey, a gangster who kills people. Bernie, a 50-year-old man who can't walk ten feet without stopping to catch his breath. And Pat. I don't even know what Pat's problem is because he's always so busy blaming it on everyone else. But hey, we're here with him."

But why, Alson keeps asking himself, is he now here with them? The answer is soon obvious to the reader of this racy, reckless memoir. The bookie's life is not just lucrative, it is fun. It is fun because it is dangerous.

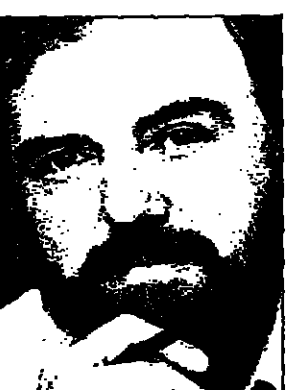
With the style and gusto of a 1990s Damon Runyan, Alson paints a vivid portrait of a shady New York demi-monde which he clearly enjoyed more than he cares to admit. His rogue's gallery of partners-in-crime step straight out of a latter-day *Guys and Dolls*. He

has a gambler's ear for sharp, witty dialogue, and a fanatic's feel for the male bonding peculiar to men bent on risk. Whenever he leaves the office to chronicle his hopeless love life, not to mention his inner torment, the reader becomes a vicarious gambler, anxious to get back to the action.

After his nightmare comes true, and the law intervenes, Alson returns via a hilarious jailhouse denouement to the dreary old straight-and-narrow. He swaps the life of a bookie for — surprise, surprise — that of a writer writing about bookies. At which he is so good that it is almost a shame that he will no doubt, move on to other themes.

Adrian Mole's crusader

STEPHEN J. RIVELLE presents his text as a translation of an 11th-century "diary" kept by his ancestor, Roger L'Escrivet, a French nobleman from the Cevennes and one of the leaders of the First Crusade to Jerusalem. I puzzled over whether the whole thing was authentic, as it vigorously claims to be. Then I spotted that "e" on the end of the word "Bookie" which is to any noun what fake veridigis is to ironwork.



Rivelle: ancient script

out of his tent for the night and Adrian Mole has taken up his pen on his behalf.

The entries are annotated with little interventions from the descendant-translator, which bring about as much authenticity to the text as that antique "e". Notes do furnish a text, though, don't they? Of a crucial letter received by Roger in Saint Symeon from his wife back in Provence, note 40 tells us. "The letter has obviously been lost". By this time the disappointment is keen. Jehanne's sexual insatiability prompted the persistent Roger's departure, and a brief word from her at this point might have been welcome.

■ A BOOK OF DAYS
By Stephen J. Rivelle
Macmillan, £16.99
ISBN 0 333 65747 0

ly snide part of speech, the subjunctive of implied disbelief (the imperfect come-off-it).

The diary takes us from Montpellier all the way to Jerusalem and back. The accounts of battles are tedious, as accounts of battles almost always are, but the introspective passages are interesting, even if you sometimes feel that he has slipped

Heart on a sleeve

■ THE LATE CHILD
By Larry McMurtry
Orion, £16.99
ISBN 0 75280 070 1

There are two late children, in fact. There is Eddie, five-year-old unplanned light in the life of Harmony, his forty-something mother. And there is Pepper, Harmony's older daughter, out of touch for years, now suddenly dead of Aids in New York.

Harmony is a former Las Vegas showgirl gone slightly, slowly, to seed. Once the most beautiful woman in town, photographed in the casinos with Elvis and Mr Sinatra, she now has only winsome, precocious Eddie to show for a lifetime of hopeless loves.

Faced, abruptly, with the news that she no longer has a daughter, she abandons the films constants of her life and takes to the road. Accompanied by her mismatched sisters, she heads home to Oklahoma.

They lose their luggage in the Grand Canyon, check into a brothel in Jersey City, find a puppy, meet the President, wreck their car. Oklahoma brings a reckoning. Back in the bosom of their dysfunctional family, the sisters consider what's left of their lives.

Vivid, sometimes moving, often funny, this is a sentimental journey to the heart of America. And the heart of America is where it's always been: worn proudly on America's sleeve.

IAN BRUNSKILL

Dracula cloaked by anorak

CERTAIN fictional characters attract the anoraks. Their timetables and charts can always prove, for example, that Holmes was treated by Freud. No subsequent incarnation of *Dracula*, however, is a patch on the blood-letting that is Bram Stoker's one masterpiece. So strong was his conception that it traverses the novel's longueurs — and survives all the spin-offs, from Hammer movies to the recent, half-baked academic theory that the century's end and Aids explain the current penchant for vampirism.

■ SUPPING WITH PANTHERS
By Tom Holland
Little Brown, £12.99
ISBN 0 316 87622 4

the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, Stoker himself and — somehow — Lord Byron. Told by many of the participants, including a budding actress and an ambitious politician, and deploying a panoply of letters, it is high entertainment with a dash of romance, which traverses London, from Harley Street to an East-End opium den.

All this has its origins in a bizarre, Haggardian ceremony on the Indian border, apparently reported in Colonel Sir William Moorfield's *With Rifles in the Raj*. The medical ramifications of this

tribal ritual are even worse than feared by Dr Elliot, whom Moorfield meets out there. Back in London, a terrible criminal pattern emerges under the microscope.

Needless to say, there is recourse to the contents of a Whitby graveyard. Shocking as the metropolitan revelations prove, they have an undue self-consciousness, whose absence from the long opening section made something genuinely chilling.

Meanwhile, the NHS could surely use the Government by making blood available — at a price — to these helpless creatures. It would do wonders for the crime rate.

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE



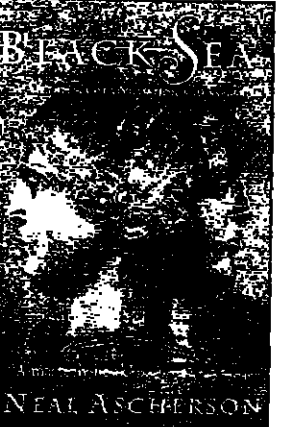
A depiction of slave conditions in the 19th century

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TLS THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT



■ BLACK SEA
The Birthplace of Civilization and Barbarism
By Neal Ascherson
Vintage, £7.99
ISBN 0 09 959371 3

THIS dense, frequently fascinating history of the Black Sea, where migrating peoples have crossed paths for millennia, flows from the pen of the former *Observer* foreign correspondent (now columnist for *The Independent* on Sunday). Thinking about barbarism, civilisation and nationalism, he compares a mongrel-Tatar prince who donned Greek robes to 18th-century half-cosmopolitan Scots chieftains. Although it is sometimes rambling, the book mingles erudite accounts of the ancient world with the author's first-hand experience of the 1990s and the USSR in upheaval.

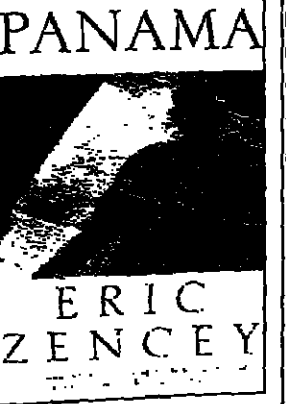
■ WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE WAR, MUMMY?
By Mavis Nicholson
Pimlico, £10
ISBN 0 71 267464 0

A RESISTANCE heroine, the future novelist Mary Wesley, a widow, a munitions worker, a barrage balloon operator, landgirls and a popular singer are among the gallery of women who reveal to Nicholson the enormous impact the Second World War had on their once ordinary lives. Each woman tells a tale of bravery and fear in a war which they had to help win. Despite the trials of the Blitz, rationing, and sad partings, Nicholson's women feel that the war allowed them opportunities and freedoms they had been denied.



■ THE NORMAL MAN
By Susie Boyt
Phoenix, £5.99
ISBN 1 85799 421 3

JANEY ARCH wants a normal man, someone she can bake steak and kidney pies for. After months of crash dieting and a roller coaster of disastrous relationships, an accident at a house-warming party brings down the whole house of cards and she relives her obsessions with men, her childhood, jam, and the death of her father Norman, ten years ago. But Janey also meets a normal man at the party, a man who reads *Anna Karenina* to her in hospital. A novel of pain but also of self-mocking humour and reconciliation, and of finding someone who likes jam as much as she does.



■ PANAMA
By Eric Zencey
Sceptre, £5.99
ISBN 0 340 65722 7

THIS IS a fine first novel, and better than that, a remarkable one. Ask most history professors to write a thriller set within their favourite time and place and you will get an undisciplined textbook, whereas Eric Zencey's mystery set within 1890s Paris is both gripping and educational. Unsurprisingly, the reluctant hero is an American historian too, Henry Adams, who is drawn into a seedy Paris, reminiscent of Poe, in which the Panama Canal scandal is being hatched. Adams's exploits will appeal to both lovers of mystery and academia: a distinction revealed to be very slight indeed.

Contributors: Lucy Lethbridge, Kate Bassett, Adam Schwartzman, Alison Burns, Amanda Loose, Guy Walters

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PERLINS

FICTION

s in the round

bestsellers

GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON

Carters Royal Berkshire Fair
Featuring the usual steam funfair, fireworks and rock 'n' roll dogdams.
Prory Park.
Prory Road, N9 (01628 822 221). Today, 1-10.30pm, tomorrow, 1-9pm; phone for ticket price.

Hearths of Oak

Five-year-olds and above are invited to watch a puppet display served up in a *Spitting Image* style.
National Maritime Museum.
Romney Road, SE10 (0181-858 4422). Today, tomorrow, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm; £5.50, cones £4.50, child £3.

Kids of the Wild West

Theatre performance unravelling the mysteries of time travel for five to 12-year-olds.
Open Air Theatre.
Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Today, 11.15am; £4.50.

Old Egg

Adapted from the classic *Ugly Duckling* tale and accompanied by original songs. For three to five-year-olds.
Polka Theatre for Children.
The Broadway, SW19 (0181-543 8888). Today, 12.30pm and 2.30pm; £3.90.

Summer on the Square

Workshops, music, performances and theatre.
Peckham Square.
Peckham High Street/Rye Lane, SE15 (0171-732 3232). Today, midday-4pm; free.

Sun, Sand and Sea

Exotic costumes feature in a carnival club course for children.
Chats Palace.



Warwick Castle: birds of prey and 15th-century knights compete for attention during this weekend's activities for all the family

Brooksbys Walk, E9 (0181-533 0227). Today, 1-6pm; phone for details.

REGIONAL

BODELWYDDAN

High Jinks
Craft displays, games, sports drama and face painting for children of all ages.
Bodelwyddan Castle.
Bodelwyddan (01745 584 563). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-midday, 12.30-2pm and 2.30-4pm; £1.25.

DOWNPATRICK

The Vikings
The life of northern Europe's

Dark Age conquerors with interactive activities and CD-Rom facilities for children.
Down County Museum.
The Mall (01396 615 218). Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm; free.

EDINBURGH

Greyfriars Bobby
Storytelling, puppet magic and singalong songs.
Netherbow Arts Centre
(Fringe Venue 30)
High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 2pm; £3, cones £2.50.

Winnie the Pooh

Parable Puppet Theatre stages this classic tale of the honey-

loving bear.
Netherbow Arts Centre.
High Street (0131-556 9579). Today, 12.30pm; £3, cones £2.50.

LEEDS

Rhythms of the City
Highlights include Dangerous Doughnuts and the Bunnies and Spring Emporium (today), plus tonight's salsa evening. Tomorrow's grand finale includes live music and the Natural Theatre Company. *Rhythms of the City Festival.*
Various venues (0113-244 2111). Today, midday-late, ends tomorrow, midday-3.30pm; admission free.

NORWICH

Snow White and the Dwarfs
Adaptation of the classic fairytale for ages four to eight.
Norwich Puppet Theatre.
St James's, Whitefriars (01603 629 921). Today, 2.30pm; £3.75.

WARWICK

Company Ecorcheur and Birds of Prey
Action-packed extravaganza with mounted knights from the 15th century, foot combats and battle drills.
Warwick Castle.
(01926 495 421). Today, tomorrow, midday and 2.30pm; £5.25-£8.75.

COMEDY

LONDON

Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up
Tonight's double slot for Phil Davey, Paul Zennaro, John Moloney, Roger Monkhouse and Danny Morris.
Comedy Store.
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914 433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight; £10.

Comics on a Saturday

Night
Featuring Justin Waite, Dave Thompson, Luis Alberto, Kit Nilson and Chris Hansford. Andy Fox MCs.
Fulmar and Firkin.
Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0590). Tonight, 8.30pm; free.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH

Fringe Festival
Highlights include:
Mel and Sue - Planet Pussy
The purring moggies offer 1990s style post-*Ab-Fab* humour.
Pleasance.
The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 6.30pm; £8, cones £7.

Greg Proops

The resident American from *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* fame.
Pleasance.
The Pleasance (0131-556 6550). Tonight, tomorrow, 8.15pm; £8.50, cones £7.50 (tonight), £7.50, cones £6.50 (tomorrow).

So You Think You're Funny

Sponsored by Channel 4, previous winners include Rhona Cameron and Phil Kay.
Gilded Balloon Theatre.
Cowgate (0131-226 2151).



Edinburgh: Mel and Sue

Tomorrow, 10.45pm; £6, cones £5.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL
Dylan Moran is the name on many comedy-lovers' lips this week as the Edinburgh Fringe Fest gets rolling and aficionados of stand-up whisper in corners about who might win the prestigious Perrier Award. Moran is louche, fashionably wasted-looking and reportedly charming the socks off the punters at the Pleasance. Returning on form after a year away, the young Irishman is rambling whimsically about his Catholic upbringing, hangovers and the differences between men and women - familiar territory maybe but sharply witty.
KATE BASSETT

The Pleasance.
Over the Road. *The Pleasance* (0131-556 6550). Tonight, 9.15pm.

POP

LONDON

Fun in the Sun Soca Day
Super Blue Krosfyah, Shadow, Tommy Joseph, Sprang-a-Lang.
Finsbury Park.
N4 (0171-923 2555). Today, 2-10pm; £17.

Fun in the Sun

Reggae Day
Bunny Wailer, Chaka Demus and Pliers, Sparner Banner, Augustus Pablo, Prince Lincoln and the Royal Rasses, Akabu.
Finsbury Park.
N4 (0171-923 2555). Tomorrow, 2-10pm; £20.

REGIONAL

BARNSTAPLE

Arlington Folk Festival
John Renbourn and Wizz Jones. Parcel of Rogues, Signs of Life, Hearts of Oak, Bates Motel, Prairie Dogs.
Arlington Court.
(01271 850 296). Today, midday-midnight; £5, under 14s free.

CHELMSFORD

Pulp, Supergass, Elastica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman

Pulp headlines the V96 Festival, with a strong supporting bill.
Hylands Park.
(01245 495 028). Today, midday; phone for availability.



Donington: Ozzy Osbourne

Paul Weller, Lightning Seeds, Charlatans, Tricky, Orbital, Menswear, The Cardigans
Second day of V96, with 1960s-influenced sounds and adventurous dance acts.
Hylands Park.
(01245 495 028). Tomorrow, midday; £25, phone for availability.

DONINGTON
Kiss, Ozzy Osbourne, Sepultura, Dog Eat Dog, Biohazard
Annual heavy metal festival.
Donington Park.
Castle Donington (0115 934 2044). Today, 10am; £27.

EXETER

Dodgy, Loop Guru, Catatonia, Dharmas, Supernaturals, Candyskins
The Birmingham pop trio headline their *Big Top* tour.
The Fairground Site.
Matford (01392 425 309). Tomorrow, 3-10.30pm; £10-£13.

GUILDFORD

Folk and Blues Festival
Peter Green of Fleetwood Mac, Eddi Reader, Shane Macgowan and the Popes and Big Country.
Stoke Park.
(01483 454 159). Today, tomorrow, midday; £27-£32, day ticket £17-£20.

WARRINGTON

Pulp, Supergass, Elastica, Cast, Gary Numan, Stereolab, Jonathan Richman
See Chelmsford.

Victoria Park.
(0115-934 2000). Tomorrow, midday; £25.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

SUMMER PARTY
Newcastle Arena's multi-artist bill features some of the top contenders for the current pocket money vote. Bill Hoppers East 17 will put across their pretty tunes and pale-faced raps with plenty of East End attitude, while local lads Ant and Dec will just grin relentlessly, do silly dances and hope no-one can tell the difference. Upside Down and current chart-toppers, the Spice Girls, should manage to be both banal and fascinating at the same time, and relative veteran Cathy Dennis, a clever songwriter, may run rings around them all.
ALAN JACKSON

Newcastle Arena.
Neville Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (0191-401 8000). Today, 5pm; £9.

FAIR

LONDON

Streets of London Festival
Part of the annual street theatre fest, today's highlights include performances by the Beetroots, Heir of Insanity, Dodgy Clutch, plus the Whalley Range All Stars.
Streets of London Festival Information.
Various Venues, Canary Wharf, E14 (01273 821 588). Today, phone for performance times; free.

West London Antiques Fair
Wide display of decorative items, rare antiques and other collectables.
Kensington Town Hall.
Hornton Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Today, ends tomorrow, 11am-6pm; free.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH

International, Fringe and Film Festivals
The 50th annual Edinburgh Festival is now in full swing, featuring theatre, comedy, music, dance, opera and visual art events.
Various venues.
International festival 0131-225 5756; Fringe festival, 0131-226 5257/5259; film festival 0131-228 4051.

Market Bosworth: Joust and Battle Re-enactment
Experience the past with this re-creation of a medieval battle, plus Morris men, live music and jousting.
Bosworth Battlefield.
(01455 290 429). Tomorrow, 1pm; £4, cones £2, free for under fives.

MILFORD

Fuchsia Festival
Spectacular colour blooming in a regal setting.
Shugborough.
near Stafford (01899 881 388). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3, cones £2.50, child £1.

ROSS-ON-WYE

International Festival
First year for the global-themed fest, featuring dance, theatre and world music.
Information, various venues (01497 821 299). Today

and tomorrow, times vary; prices vary; phone for details.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Black Country Film Festival Exhibition
Part of the Black Country film series, featuring a collection of cinematic skills.
Wolverhampton Light House.
Fryer Street (01902 716 055). Today, tomorrow, 10am-9pm; free.

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE CROSSING GUARD (15)
Grieving father (Jack Nicholson) plots revenge for his daughter's death. Portentous drama from writer-director Sean Penn.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121)

HUNGER ARTIST
Bernard Rudden's intense 45-minute film, inspired by Kafka; plus two other British shorts.
ICA Cinema (0171-930 3647)

LAST DANCE (15)
Sharon Stone sits on Death Row; lawyer Rob Morrow wants to save her. Earnest but perfunctory drama from Bruce Beresford.
Odeons: Haymarket (01426-915 353) *Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

NICK OF TIME
Christopher Walken forces Johnny Depp to kill the Governor of California. Passable time waster, directed by John Badham.
NFT (0171-928 3232)

CURRENT

THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME (U)
Victor Hugo meets the Disney animators. A perverse, and perversely successful, mix of the cuddly and downbeat. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise.
MGM Baker Street (0171-935 9772) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Mezzanine* (01426 915683) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914 098) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* (0990 888990) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Tracadero* (0171-434 0031) *Warner* (0171-437 4343)

GEORGE BROWN ABC Pantan Street (0171-930 0631) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Virgin Haymarket* (0171-839 1527) *Warner* (0171-437 4343)

THE STUPIDS (PG)
Mirthless comedy about America's stupidest family. With Tom Arnold and Jessica Lundy. Director, John Landis.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *West End* (01426-915 574)

TWISTER (PG)
Cardboard characters chase tornadoes. Great special effects, but repetition softens the impact.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Empire* (0990 888990) *MGM Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Notting Hill Coronet* (0171-727 6705) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Plaza* (0990 888990) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* (0990 888990) *Virgin: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Worshipers* (0171-426 0021)



The Secret of Roan Inish

CLASSICAL

LONDON

BBC Symphony Orchestra/Belohlavek
Mozart's final Piano Concerto performed by Richard Goode. Janáček's stirring *Sinfonietta* plus choral works by Dvoták and Martinů.
Albert Hall.
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

Clod Ensemble
Rich collection of chamber music from the 20th century, including *Dumbarton Oaks* by Stravinsky.
Battersea Arts Centre.
Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 8pm; £7.50, cones £5.



London: Barbara Bonney

First Act Opera International
The Brandenburg Concert Orchestra performs a series of Baroque opera classics.
Chiswick House.
Burlington Lane (0181-577 6969). Tomorrow, 7pm; £10, cones £7.50.

London Concertante/Grist
Series of Baroque classics.
St James's Church.
Piccadilly, W1 (0171-437 5053). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£12.

New Chamber Opera/Burden
Music last performed during the 17th century, including works by Stradella and Pasquall.
Queen Elizabeth Hall.
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 6.30pm; £6.

New London Consort/Pickett
Pilgrim songs and dances from medieval times.
Queen Elizabeth Hall.
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 8pm; £7 and £10.

Oslo Philharmonic/Jansons
Songs by Grieg performed by Barbara Bonney with Mahler's Fifth Symphony.
Albert Hall.
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50.

Royal Philharmonic/Sutherland
Featuring Elgar's Symphony No 1.
Kenwood.
Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50 and £13.50.

REGIONAL

DARTINGTON

Kun Hu/Nigel Hutchinson
Mozart's and Schumann's violin sonatas, plus a Schubert Sonata.
Great Hall.
(01803 863 073). Tomorrow, 8.15pm; £7 and £10.

EDINBURGH

Baroque Concert
The Philomusica of Edinburgh performs Vivaldi, Telemann and Mozart.
St John's Church Hall.
West End, Princes Street (0131-556 0492). Tonight, 8pm; £6, cones £3.

Biwa, Japanese Lute
Silvain Kyokurai Guignard performs ethereal ballads from Japan.
Randolph Studio. Institut Francois d'Ecosse.
Randolph Crescent (0131-225 5366). Tonight, 4.30pm; £5, cones £4.50.

Burns Song
The soprano Mhairi Lawson performs various works by Schumann and Berg.
Festival Theatre.
Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5-£16.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

NEW YORK CALLING
Veteran maestro Kurt Masur has given the New York Philharmonic a new lustre in the great romantic masterpieces, as the orchestra will doubtless demonstrate at the Edinburgh Festival this weekend. Tonight a sole American work, Ned Rorem's *Cor Anglais* Concerto, is sandwiched between Strauss and Beethoven. Tomorrow evening, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* suite is the prelude to Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony. Although not very adventurous, it will probably be magnificent.
RICHARD MORRISON

Usher Hall.
Lothian Road, Edinburgh (0131-225 5756). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; £5-£27.50.

Scottish Chamber Choir
Recital of French choral and organ music, featuring works by Debussy, Faure and Messiaen.
Old St Paul's Church and Hall.
Jeffrey Street (0131-557 6690). Tomorrow, 8pm; £6, cones £4.

Scottish Fiddle Music
The fiddlers include Aly Bain and Alasdair Fraser.
Greyfriars Kirk.
Greyfriars Place (0131-225 8839). Tonight, 10.30pm; £10.

Thomas Zehetmair.
Heinrich Schiff, Till Fellner Beethoven's and Weber's cello and piano and violin and piano works, plus Schubert's B flat Trio.
Queen's Hall.
Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today, 11am; £4-£16.

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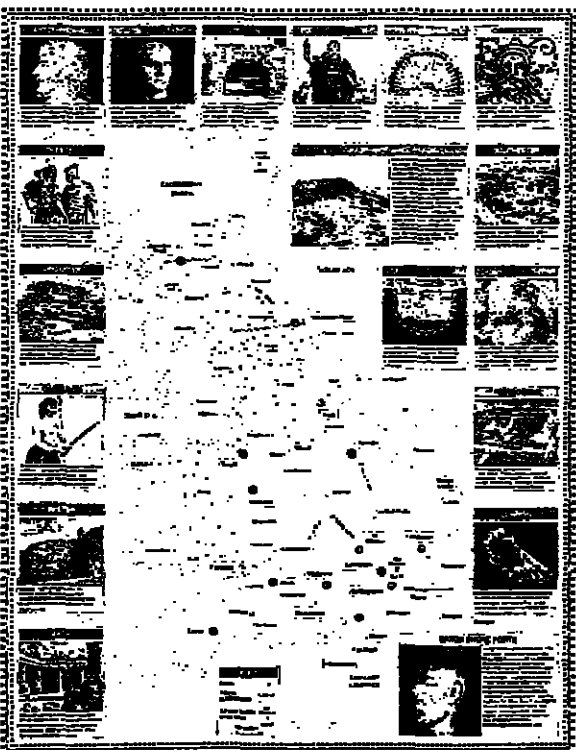
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GOING OUT

13

GARDENS

CAITHNESS

Langwell, Berriedale
Scottish houses often had their main garden in a walled enclosure some distance away, on a site chosen for shelter rather than convenience. Langwell is a prime example of this as well as being a rare and unexpected treat. Tucked into the shelter of the Langwell strath, the walled garden lies on a sloping site reached via a two-mile drive through woodland. It is a traditional Scottish garden, an orderly arrangement of herbaceous borders in front of groups of fruit trees and bushes and vegetables, all coming to a burgeoning peak of fruit and flower around now. *Tropaeolum speciosum*, which grows so well in Scotland, provide internal divisions and frame views; so sheltered are many corners that on a hot August day it is easy to forget you are in north Scotland. 2m from Berriedale on A9 (01593 751278). Open tomorrow, 2-6pm. £1.50, children under 12, £1.

HAMPSHIRE

Longstock Park Gardens
Near Stockbridge. Fed by clear water from the chalk-stream River Test, Longstock Park gardens were created in 1948 by John Spedan Lewis for the enjoyment of staff in his family firm, John Lewis. The water flows in at one end of the eight-acre site, descending through a series of low gurgling falls and spreading out into a network of streams and pools around little islands. Along the banks and water edges are aquatic and foliage plants arranged in bold, natural drifts — grasses, hostas



Classic design: Anglesey Abbey offers majestic vistas framed by statues and outstanding trees

and astilbes — while the selection of trees such as swamp cypress and liquidambar, which enjoy the damp conditions, provide a shady canopy. Woodland and banks of rhododendrons form boundary screens. There is an exceptional display of water lilies, while the nursery in the adjacent walled garden should be visited for the vinella clematis in flower now. A30 on to A3057, 2m north of Stockbridge (01264 810894). Open tomorrow and September 1 and 15, 2-5pm. £2, children 50p.

KENT
Northbourne Court
Northbourne, Deal. Historically, the garden at Northbourne Court is of great distinction: a series of bold terraces with high brick retaining walls were 17th-century additions to the original Tudor garden, built by Sir Edward Sandys to complement his new house. This was burnt down in 1750 and the present manor house is an appealingly vernacular in style. The garden's impressive structures create a series of walks and views both

and down. Small secretive enclosures complement the vigorous style of the terraces and the summer planting with highlights of old-fashioned pinks, lavender, hardy geraniums and grey foliage plants. 1.5m west of Deal, off A258 (01304 611281). Open Sundays in August, 2-5pm. £2.50, children £1.50.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Anglesey Abbey, Lode
The much-maligned staple of late summer gardens, the dahlia, is displayed in splendour at

Anglesey Abbey. Two whole gardens of this impressively grandiose National Trust property are devoted to immaculately presented varieties including the decorative puns and cacti, all in tastefully pastel shades such as pink-flowered "Gerry Hoek", the other devoted to small, bedding dahlias of which the garden holds the world stock. This second formal garden has hyacinths in the spring, followed by the red and yellow-flowered dahlias, "Madame Stappers" and "Ella Brittain" whose bronze foliage is what Anglesey's creator, Lord Fairhaven, particularly admired. This year is the centenary of his birth and a suitable occasion to appreciate his design and planting of this most ambitious 20th-century garden. More than 100 acres of fen was transformed, with huge lawns contrasting with the individual flower gardens and majestic vistas decorated with statues and ornaments and framed by outstanding trees. Line trees are a feature and one of the most attractive at the moment, the weeping silver lime *Tilia petiolaris*, is covered in flowers producing heady scent. In Lode on northeast of Cambridge on B102 (01223 811200). Open daily to September 8, 11am-5.30pm; September 11 to November 3, Wed to Sun, 11am-5.30pm (last entrance 4.30pm). £3.20, children £1.60.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

Correction
The garden at Glebe Cottage in Umberleigh, Devon, is open on September 8 and 29, 2-5pm (nursery open Tue-Fri, April-Oct) and not tomorrow, as published in Weekend last week.

COMING SOON

LONDON

From Sep 12
English National Opera
Booking is now open for the new season at the London Coliseum, which will include new productions of *La Traviata* (directed by Jonathan Miller, with Rosa Mannion as Violetta) and the first British production of *Zimmerman's Die Soldaten*. There are also revivals of the English National Opera productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Don Quixote*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Rigoletto*. Box office: 0171-632 8300.

REGIONAL

CHICHESTER

Aug 21-Sep 14
Fortune's Fool
Ivan Turgenev's 1852 comic play receives its British premiere in a production starring Alan Bates at the Chichester Festival Theatre. Box office: 01243-781 312.

LEICESTER

Sep 20-Oct 12
Marabou Stork
Nightmares
This is Irvine Welsh's latest novel to be adapted for the

stage, following the page-to-stage success of *Trainspotting*, first seen in Glasgow and now receiving its premiere south of the Scottish border at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester. Box office: 0116-253 9797.

RYE

Sep 7-21

Rye Festival

The highlights will include performances by Stephen Kovacevich and the Nash Ensemble. Box office: 01797-223 084.

ST ASAPH

Sep 14-21

North Wales Music Festival

Celebrating its 25th anniversary with performances by the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble, the Lindsay Quartet and the choir of St John's College, Cambridge, in St Asaph Cathedral. Box office: 01745-584 508.



London: Toto La Momposina

GALLERIES

CRITIC'S CHOICE

VELAZQUEZ IN SEVILLE
One of the great masterpieces of the National Gallery of Scotland's collection is an early Velazquez, painted when he was in his late teens. *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs*. It was in many ways a typical product of the artist's beginnings in his native Seville, before he moved to Madrid in 1623. Kitchen scenes, showing off the young painter's brilliance at still-life, are frequent and so are genre scenes such as *The Water-seller of Seville*. For the Edinburgh Festival the National Gallery has brought together practically all the surviving canvases of Velazquez's Seville period, and surrounding them with work by contemporaries.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR
National Gallery of Scotland
The Mound, Edinburgh (0131-332 2266). Today, 10am-6pm; tomorrow, 11am-6pm; admission £4.

CONTEMPORARY SPANISH
Realities
Collection of portraits and still lifes from eight artists.

Marlborough Gallery
Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161). Today, 10am-12.30pm; free.

Degas: Beyond Impressionism
Sculptures and drawings from the master's latter years. *National Gallery*, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-839 3321). Today, 10am-6pm; tomorrow, midday-6pm; £5, concs £3.

William Morris
The life and work of the Victorian designer, poet and radical thinker. *Victoria and Albert Museum*, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm; £5.50, concs £3.25.



London: Gabriel Orozco

ICA Gallery
The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647). Today, tomorrow, midday-7.30pm; £2.50.

Jack Pierson
Prominent contemporary American artist shows new images and sculpture. *White Cube*, Duke Street, SW1 (0171-930 5373). Today, midday-6pm; free.

The Open
Multi-media show featuring the work of more than 100 artists. *Whitechapel Art Gallery*, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (0171-522 7888). Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; free.

REGIONAL

BRIDPORT
Anthony Caro
Collection of the sculptor's figure drawings. *Bridport Arts Centre*, South Street (01308-427 183). Today, 10am-4pm; free.

CARLISLE
Andy Goldsworthy
Drawings resulting from site-specific installations. *Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery*, Castle Street (01228 34781). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, midday-5pm; free.

DARLINGTON
Eileen Cooper
Lithographs and other graphic works exploring gender and the female nude. *Myles Meehan Gallery*, Vane Terrace (01325-483 271). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

DUNDEE
The Twentieth Century Gallery
Work by James Macintosh Cameron and the Scottish Colourists. *Dundee Art Gallery and Museum*, Albert Square (01382-432 020). Today, 10am-5pm; free.

EDINBURGH
Helena Chadwick
The late artist's final work. *Portfolio Gallery*, Candlemaker Row (0131-220 1911). Today, 10am-5.30pm; tomorrow, midday-4.30pm; £1.50.

Alberto Giacometti
Retrospective of work by one of the art world's greats. *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art*, Belford Road (0131-556 8921). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2-5pm; £4.

Henry Moore
Lithographs and etchings. *Edinburgh Printmakers*, Union Street (0131-557 2479). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

George Rodger
Images of Africa by Life magazine's photographer. *Royal Scottish Academy*, The Mound (0131-225 6671). Today, 10am-5pm; tomorrow, 2-5pm; £1.

KENDAL
Lucian Freud
The figurative artist's paintings and etchings. *Abbot Hall Art Gallery*, Abbot Hall (01539-722 464). Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.90.

THEATRE

LONDON

Ferry 'Cross the Mersey
Gerry and the Pacemakers, who had their first No 1 hit one month before the Beatles, singing their own story. *Lyric*, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Tonight, 8.15pm; mat, 5pm.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

JOHN GABRIEL BORKMAN
With its black-clad figures and bleak, angular set, Richard Eyre's production gives late-late 19th-century, mid-winter feel. Appropriately so, because the main characters are human wreaths haunting their own pasts and trying desperately to foist their own obsessions on the young. Paul Scofield brings a fierce, monomaniacal power to the role of the disgraced banker who majestically prowls his lair dreaming of a comeback. Eileen Atkins plays his flinty, embittered wife and Vanessa Redgrave her troubled, manipulative sister.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
Lyttelton, National, South Bank (0171-928 2254). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.15pm. In rep.

The Lights
Howard Korder's drama of a journey through the New York nightmarish. Ends with the cast attacking the theatre, fittingly, because at the end of the run the interior will be rebuilt. *Royal Court*, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3.30pm.

Love in a Wood
London Classic Theatre Co provides the annual Restoration comedy at this venue. Wycherley's first success, not performed in London for three centuries. *New End*, 27 New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tonight, 7.30pm.

On the Twentieth Century
Carol Metcalfe directs the Cy Coleman/Comden and Green musical of 1978, set on the New York to Chicago express. Kathryn Evans and Michael N. Harbour play volatile movie star and extravagant director. *Bridewell*, Bridge Lane, Fleet Street, EC4 (0171-936 3456). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

GUILDFORD
Laughter on the 23rd Floor
Gene Wilder stars in Neil Simon's latest play, prior to the West End. *Yvonne Arnaud*, Millbrook (01483-440 000). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

EDINBURGH
A Satire of the Four Estates
John McGrath directs Wildcat in his surreal 1990s tribute to Sir David Lindsay's *Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estates*. 1540. *International Conference Centre*, Morrison Street (0131-300 3000/festival box office 0131-300 3000). Details of other Disney tours are

Orlando

Return tickets only for Miranda Richardson in the English language premiere of Robert Wilson's production of the novel by Virginia Woolf. Music by Hans Peter Kuhn. *Royal Lyceum*, Grindlay Street (0131-229 9697). Tonight, 7.30pm.



London: Vanessa Redgrave

LEATHERHEAD
The Mysterious Mr Love
Paul Nicholas in Caroline Leach's enigmatic drama. *Thorndike*, Church Street (01372-376 211). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

SCARBOROUGH
It Could Be Any One of Us
Juliet Mills and Jon Strickland star in this new version of Alan Ayckbourn's 1983 spoof whodunnit. *Stephen Joseph*, Valley Bridge Parade (01723-570 541). In preview tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

JAZZ

LONDON
Mose Allison Trio
Waggon blues veteran from Mississippi joins guitarist Jim Mullen. *Pizza Express*, Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £15.

Barbara Jay
Accomplished British vocalist, fresh from her *Ladies of Song* tour. Closing night of her Saturday night residency. *Landmark Hotel*, Marylebone Road, W1 (0171-631 8000). Tonight, £31-£35, including dinner.

Ed Jones Quintet
Artful pop tenorist joins trumpeter Byron Wallen and pianist Jon Gee. *Jazz Cafe*, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £8.

Stacey Kent Quintet
Chanteuse joins tenor-playing husband Jim Tomlinson. *Pizza on the Park*, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Tonight, 9pm; £18.

Jose Neto
Brazilian fusion guitarist from Airo Morreira and Flora Purim's Fourth World enters heavy metal territory, with support from saxophonist Bob Kindred. *Ronnie Scott's*, Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, 7.30pm; £9.50.

Pasadena Roof Orchestra

Showboat 1920s-style dance orchestra. *Open Air Theatre*, Regent's Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431). Tonight, 8pm; £10-£12.

Gil Scott-Heron
Funk from the sardonic progenitor of rap. *The Island*, High Road, Ilford, Essex (0181-514 4400). Tonight, 8pm.

Jean Toussaint
Hip American tenorist from Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers with an excellent British band featuring Byron Wallen, Cibo and Tony Remy. *Smolensky on the Strand*, The Strand, WC2 (0171-497 2101). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £4.

Helen Watson
Folk and blues-edged jazz diva. *Purcell Room*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £8.50.

REGIONAL

BRISTOL
Joey Calderazzo Trio
NYC pianist with brother Gene on drums and Brit-bop bassist Arnie Somogyi. *Albert Inn*, West Street (0117 966 1968). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

RUBY BRAFF
Comedists do not come much sweeter than Boston-born Ruby Braff, a lyrical soloist at the forefront of the mainstream school for the past 40 years. He is joined tomorrow evening by tenor saxophonist Scott Hamilton, a younger leader of the swing pack.

CLIVE DAVIS
Naim International Jazz Festival, Golf View Hotel, Seabank Road, Naim (01667-452 301). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm; also, Braff only, Sun lunchtime.

EDINBURGH
Herbie Flowers with Mike Hatcher
Session bass guru returns to his jazz roots. *Graffiti*, corner of Broughton Street and East London Street (0131-557 8330). Today, tomorrow, 2.30pm; £5.

The Honkin' Hep Cats
Quirky mix of jazz, funk, blues and swing. *Beck's Famous Spiegeltent*, Top of Waverley Centre, Princes St (0131-558 1072/220 4067). Tonight, tomorrow, 8.30pm; £7, concs £5.

Valery Ponomarev Quintet
Moscow-born. New York-based hard bop trumpeter of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers fame. *Tron Tavern*, Blair Street (0131-220 1550). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm; £5.

WHITLEY BAY
The Glenn Miller Orchestra UK
John Watson's incarnation of the 1940s big band. *Whitley Bay Playhouse*, Marine Avenue (0191-252 3505). Tonight, 7.30pm; £9.50.

OPERA

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ORFEO ED EURIDICE
Having toured America trailing clouds of glory, the collaboration of the Mark Morris Dance Group and Christopher Hogwood's Handel and Haydn Society Chorus and Orchestra in Gluck's *Orfeo* (1762 version) hits the Edinburgh Festival. Dance plays a crucial role in the opera, and with Michael Chance and Dana Hanchard in the leading roles the singing will not be eclipsed.

RODNEY MILNES
Festival Theatre, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh (0131-225 5756). Tonight and Monday, 7.15pm; £5-£32.

LONDON
Un Ballo in Maschera
David Gibson conducts Verdi's melodrama staged by Holland Park Opera. *Holland Park Theatre*, Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-602 7856). Today 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £20, concs £14.50.

REGIONAL
BUXTON
Iolanthe
Part of the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. *Buxton Opera House*, Water Street (01298 72190). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50-£11.50.

Ruddigore
Gilbert and Sullivan Festival grand finale featuring D'Oyly Carte. *Buxton Opera House*, Water Street (01298 72190). Tomorrow, 2.30pm; £10-£16.



Un Ballo in Maschera

LEWES
Arabella
Dietfried Berner conducts the revival of John Cox's production in the final collaboration by Strauss and Hofmannsthal. *Glyndebourne Opera House*, (01773-813 813). Tomorrow, 4.15pm; £10-£110.

STOCKPORT
La Bohème
Puccini's classic opera is staged outdoors. *Bramall Hall*, (0161-485 3708). Tonight, 7.30pm; £15, concs £7.50.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
The Turn of the Screw
Britten's nail-biting thriller. *Broomhill Road*, Southborough (01892-517 720). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm; £10-£15.

Ruth Gledhill observes the Salvation Army hard at work in Brighton

Soldiers of Christ fight on



AS IF by a miracle, the clouds parted and the sun shone and the Salvation Army band, colours flying, struck up the first few chords of God's Love to Me in *Wonderful* on Brighton's seafront. They were shepherds seeking new sheep, but inevitably the first flock to respond was the extremely unsheepish posse of traffic wardens. They showed no mercy, and Army soldiers hurriedly abandoned hymn sheets and other worship paraphernalia to rescue the vehicles which had ferried them, euphonium, trumpets and all, from their Congress Hall in the back streets of Brighton.

We had joined them earlier in this building, a crumbling relic of an earlier age whose beams could, from our seats near the back, be seen to be cracking under the strain of supporting the vast and faded edifice around them. We were at the morning "Holiness" meeting, attended by the Army's soldiers and the exceptionally large number of officers who have retired to Brighton. But in the holiday season, when Brighton is packed with visitors, people who live there tend to go away, so numbers were down on the usual 150. The Holiness meeting is a chance for Salvationists to examine their chance for Salvationists to examine their own lives and conduct. In the evening, at the Salvation meeting, people with no Christian commitment are encouraged to come along and find God. The Army, founded by William Booth in 1865, is organised on a military basis with a general at its head and descending ranks of officers down to huge gatherings of foot soldiers, divided into

Army rejects the sacraments and concentrates on moral teachings and personal holiness. It has its own "Articles of War", where new recruits pledge to be a "soldier of Christ", renouncing the world with its sinful pleasures and objects. It achieves phenomenal success in rescuing society's lowest from their fate, in particular with alcoholics. The Brighton Corps actively tackles the town's social issues, which include many homeless people and a growing drugs problem. Officers tend to work in husband-and-wife teams and at Brighton, Major John Travers leads the corps with his wife, Major Christine. The Congress Hall, opened by William Booth's wife Catherine in 1884 with the capacity to seat 3,500, has been one of the main centres of Army

activity in Britain. Early reports in *War Cry*, the weekly Army newspaper delivered free around pubs, clubs and on the Brighton seafront at our service, describe "marches into some of the worst places in the town, among drunkards, harlots and sinners of the lowest grade". Times have changed, although the work that needs doing has not. The Congress Hall needs a £2 million replacement, for which planning consent is being sought. The Brighton Corps has already raised £1 million through legacies and personal donations. The battle now is to convince conservationists and the local community that the new hall is essential for both town and Army.

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," we heard in our reading from Hebrews, the week after British athletes certainly persevered in Atlanta, even if this alone was not enough to win. This theme was taken up by Major Christine in her sermon. "Way back in the early church, we see Christian life compared to a race," she said, going on to quote from Corinthians: "Do you know that in a race, all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize." "Everyone who competes in the Games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever." Her admonitions worked: half an hour later, down on the seafront, the soldiers ran fast enough to beat the traffic wardens and returned to their corners and trumpets to win a few more souls for Christ.

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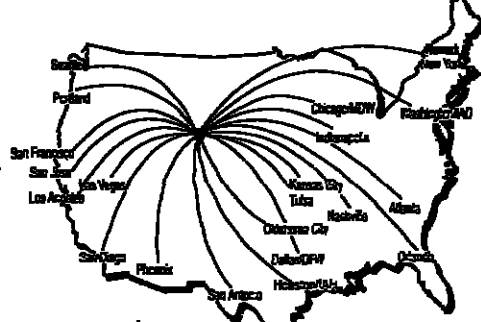
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TRAVEL

Miami: From dazzling 1930s Art Deco hotels and the good life to the wildlife of the mysterious Everglades

The lasting art and soul of the Sunshine state

The preconceived image I had of Miami was not an attractive one: it was a place where the super-rich went to die, and where tourists ran a risk of dying. It would be full of leathery matrons in rhinestone sunglasses, silicone-breasted starlets, and drug-dealers. It would be vulgar, expensive and too hot.

The Park Central Hotel on Ocean Drive proved to be none of these things. Despite its location overlooking the beach in the Art Deco district, its prices were relatively modest, with rooms starting at £43 per person for a minimum of three nights, rising to about £103 for an ocean-front suite.

Built in 1937 and sympathetically restored, the hotel retains an atmosphere of late 1930s glamour, with its whirling ceiling fans, monochrome furnishings and piano bar, where you can sip your Margarita and feel like an extra in a Bogart movie.

Appropriately, the pavement café, which doubles as the hotel's restaurant, is called Casablanca. Here, you can linger over your cappuccino and croissants while enjoying the view of swaying palm trees, cruising convertibles and lissom beauties flashing

by on in-line roller skates.

After a late brunch of French toast and maple syrup, we strolled along Ocean Drive in the warm sunshine, looking at the shops, the people and, above all, the architecture. Every one of the hotels in this half-mile stretch of South Beach is an Art Deco gem, whose distinctive four-story structures with their "eyebrow" balconies, steel-framed windows and Egyptian architraves have been enhanced, since the early 1980s, by washes of pastel lemon, pistachio, pink and blue.

One evening, after dinner at Les Deux Fontaines on Ocean Drive, where a live band played atmospheric blues in the restaurant's open-air courtyard, we dropped in at Mangos, a club specialising in salsa and merengue, where the dancing was still going strong at 2am.

Next day was devoted to shopping. We started on Lincoln Road, whose attractively off-beat mix of clothes shops, theatres and restaurants is augmented on Sunday by Camden Market-style antique stalls selling everything from 1950s sunglasses to fake leopard-skin coats. Swimwear is relatively cheap here, though the gold lamé one-piece I had

set my heart on cost \$100, plus tax. I settled for a skimpy T-shirt at £26.

Later, we took a cab to Cocowalk, an open air shopping complex in Coconut Grove, where we browsed around shops selling jewellery, shoes and yet more swimwear before going for lunch at the Café Tu Tu Tango, a tapas bar overlooking the mall, where the small but delicious portions of pizza, risotto and quesadillas soon added up to a full stomach.

There was time for more shopping in Espanola Way, where you can buy hand-rolled Cuban cigars in Babalú, which also sells Cuba Libre mugs and T-shirts, and tapes of Cuban music.

Miami is a very Latin American city. Little Havana, across the bay from South Beach, is an enclave of Cuban restaurants and nightclubs playing intoxicatingly danceable music: to take a walk along 8th Street, or Calle Ocho, is to find yourself in a different kind of America. Its cultural eclecticism is one of the city's appealing features: it seems to be an intersection of North and South, and of Old World and New.

Another night, we drove along the MacArthur Causeway to Le Festival restaurant in the upmarket district of Coral Gables, which was like a little bit of Paris. The restaurant has recently been awarded its "five diamonds", and the food was as superb.

Spending a day at the beach is the city's quintessential experience. We chose the Sonesta Beach Resort, on Key Biscayne, a short drive from the city centre across the Rickenbacker Causeway. This private beach, attached to the luxury hotel of the same name, has everything you could wish for: white sand, blue sea, palm trees and an outdoor bar serving planter's punch and strawberry daiquiris.

For the more energetic, there is an Olympic-size swimming pool, and watersports from jet-skiing to parasailing and speedboating.

After several days in the city, visiting the Everglades was a complete contrast. Instead of the vibrant hum of city traffic, there was nothing but the empty highway ahead of us, a dead straight white line bisect-



Chris Blackwell, who revived four of Miami's Art Deco hotels, keeps his pink Cadillac parked outside the Marlin

ing mile after mile of subtropical forest and wetlands.

The journey to Everglades City along Highway 41, the "Tamiami Trail", takes an hour and 45 minutes. Once there, it feels as if you've stepped back 40 years. The town's neat wooden houses are built on stilts, to protect against flooding, and are arranged along a grid of streets so straight they must have been laid out on graph paper. The town has a population of 500 and a fish restaurant, the Oyster House, serving stone crab, grouper and oysters,

caught off the Atlantic coast that morning.

After lunch we went in search of some wildlife: alligators, to be specific. On a bizarre-looking craft with a big fan on the back, we journeyed into the wetlands, through floating islands of sawgrass and waterlilies. Alligators soon appeared, seemingly undeterred by the noise of the boat's engine. They allowed themselves to be photographed and then sank slowly beneath the mirror-like surface of the water.

Much of the Everglades is

now too polluted to provide good fishing, our guide said, so the indigenous population of Miccosukee Indians had been forced to look elsewhere for their livelihood. He had grown up in one of the Everglades' villages; it is now deserted, a sad reminder of a vanished way of life.

Back in the city, we headed for the Hard Rock Café on Bayside, for hamburger and French fries, followed by dancing — at Lua, in Espanola Way, whose elegant interior, all mirrors and chandeliers, is offset by loud jazz-funk.

Next stop was the more serene Delano Hotel on Collins Avenue, whose romantically surreal lobby and bar, designed by Philip Starck, seems like a backdrop for a Vogue photo-shoot.

The night was still young, and there were still places to go, people to see. In Miami, the only thing you might find in short supply is sleep.

CHRISTINA KONING
The author was a guest of American Airlines and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

MIAMI FACT FILE

- American Airlines (0181-577 9966) flies direct from Heathrow to Miami from £325 (low season) to £525.
- Recommended hotels and the costs per person a night, room only, are: Park Central Hotel, from £51; Doubletree Hotel, £70; and the Sonesta Hotel, Key Biscayne, £106.
- Greater Miami Convention and Visitors' Bureau, 0800 892994.
- A day trip with Styles Tours through the Everglades costs £51, including lunch.
- Four of Miami's famous Art Deco hotels — the Leslie, Cavalier, Martin and Casa Grande — are owned by Island Outpost (information and reservations, freephone 0800 614 790) and cost from about £62 per person a night, plus 11.5 per cent tax. The company also runs (as a two-centre attraction) the Compass Point Hotel, Nassau, Bahamas (room from about £90 a night, plus 15 per cent tax) and the Pink Sands Resort, where a one-bedroom cottage, breakfast and dinner costs from about £200 plus 20 per cent tax.

Orlando: Bored with theme parks? Disney can help you learn more than you wanted to know

The heart of the Disney World theme park in Orlando, Florida, is probably the last place you would expect to find one of the more obscure musings of Winston Churchill about education, hand-painted above a doorway. It is just not that sort of place. At least, not until

recently. In its search for ever more innovative ways of luring people to its 30,000-acre resort, Disney has come up with a college-style campus where tourists bored with the thrill of the theme park can learn some useful, and some not-so-useful skills.

That Churchill quote, which

appears on a campus building, is, therefore, more apt than would first appear: "I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught," said Churchill in a 1952 speech. Disney's vision is to make the teaching as entertaining as it is educational.

Tucked away from the theme park, the Disney Institute is in its own grounds of pastel-coloured buildings designed to evoke turn-of-the-century small-town America. With studios, theatres, kitchens and sports facilities, it offers a core of about 60 learning programmes to teach everything from cooking and animation techniques to topology and television news scripting. Being American, it inevitably has courses for "personal development".

Guests enrol for three or seven days, during which time they stay in bungalows around a lake. Children under ten are not encouraged, although, since it opened in the spring, the institute has had to accommodate them with their own learning programmes.

Meals are eaten in the campus restaurant or from lunch boxes for those too busy to sit down for a meal.

Guest lecturers supplement the regular tutors and British tastes are represented by the lyricist Tim Rice, who earned huge royalties from the film *The Lion King*.

The concept of self-improvement seminars in pleasant surroundings is quintessentially American. The Chautauque Institution in upstate New York, where the Disney chairman, Michael Eisner, first discovered the idea several years ago, is the sort of place where trendy East Coast intellectuals like to spend their weekends discussing politics,



Cooking with Disney

Mickey Mouse teaching course

ing arts. Disney has kept the concept but brought its ambitions down to more practical levels: rock climbing, for instance, or interior design.

But does it appeal to the 30 million tourists who flock to Disney World every year, particularly the record million-plus Britons who are expected to jet into Orlando to visit Disney World this summer?

Disney acknowledges that the institute will be of interest only to a niche market and will be able to accommodate only 1,000 "students". Most will be from the "baby boomer" generation of Americans who have grown up with Disney

ing to research, are looking for an "enrichment vacation".

Britons, however, may be less enamoured with the "education". They may also be put off by the Disney approach which encourages participants to "bond" with fellow students at the beginning of each session, a group therapy that Americans seem to embrace enthusiastically, even if it is just to learn how to create an animated character or take better photographs.

Most non-Americans on my courses (cooking and animation) were, quite frankly, embarrassed. The two-hour relationship course to "empower your life and work with new vigour and vitality" might be beyond the pale for most Britons.

Yet it would be wrong to ignore the potential of the institute for some Britons. Although Disney is keen to sell the institute as a package, especially to fill hotel rooms, visitors to Disney World can pay \$49-\$69 (about £32-£45), depending on season, to join the courses for a day. Hence, while the children are in the theme or water park, parents can play golf or improve their tennis, or relax with a seaweed hydro massage.

It may be that better cooking, film-making, learning about the environment and so on has some appeal as a one-day diversion from the theme park under the hot Florida sun, especially for repeat visitors.

DAVID CHURCHILL
The author was a guest of the Disney Institute at Disney World.
Bridge Travel Service (01992 456 101) has a seven-night institute offer, including flights, accommodation, meals and classes, at \$997 per person.
The Disney Institute direct number is (407) 827-1100. Details of other Disney tours are

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TRAVEL DIRECTORY



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Butlin's: fulfilment of a childhood dream at last
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BRAZIL
Exploring the jungle that is Rio de Janeiro at its lively best
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Stockholm: The supposed 'Venice of the North' is much cleaner and better run than its Italian cousin

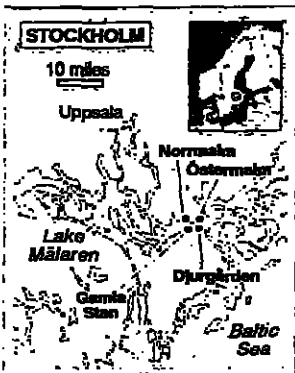
Swedes with a watery taste

Ingmar Bergman, one of Stockholm's most famous sons, said: "It's ridiculous to think of Stockholm as a city, it is simply a rather large village. You wonder what it's doing there, looking so important."

Certainly, with only a third of its area occupied by buildings (one third is water and the other parkland), much of the capital does not feel like a city at all. Of course, it has wide, elegant boulevards lined with smart shops and huge modern shopping centres, but Stockholm does have a fresh, wholesome, almost unworldly feel about it. In which other city could you dive off steps by the city hall or fish for salmon in the town centre?

It is probably unfair to call Stockholm the "Venice of the north". An abundance of water and a long mercantile and military history may allow comparisons but there any similarity ends. It is cleaner and more efficiently run than Venice, accommodating its substantial tourist influx rather than being swamped by it. Finally, there may be some wider significance in the fact that, for geological reasons, Stockholm is rising, whereas Venice is sinking.

Stockholm consists of 28 islands lying in a wide estuary



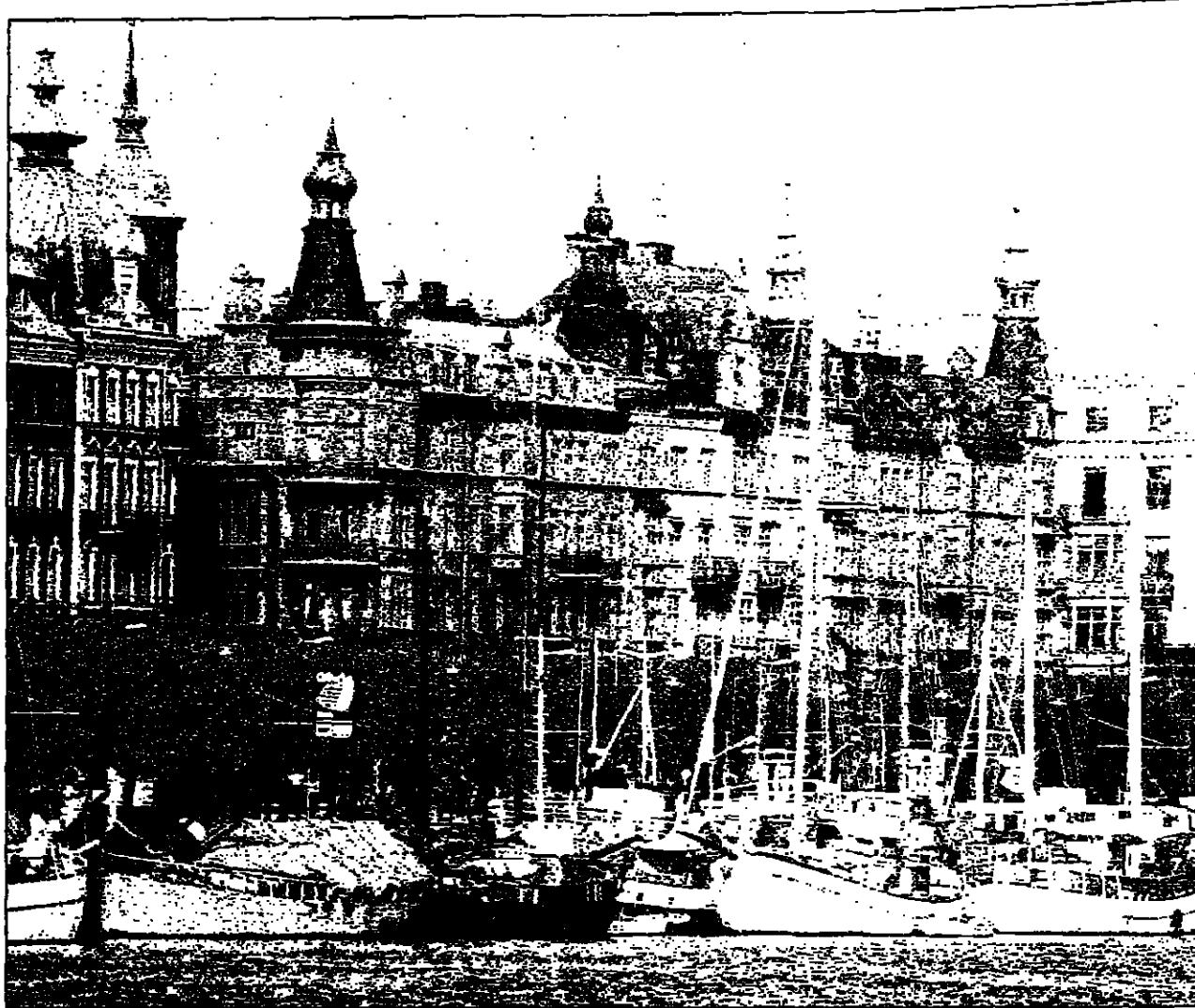
leading to the Baltic and the sea is a constant brooding presence. Wherever you go you are reminded of the role of water in the city's history. Whether glittering in the gentle summer sun or frozen flat and slate grey in the winter, it provides a simple, serene backdrop to the city's magnificent Baroque architecture. The old town, Gamla Stan, where Stockholm was founded in the 13th century, is dominated by the royal palace, the Kungliga Slottet. Larger than Buckingham Palace, as the Swedes will tell you, this vast baroque and rococo confection stands as a monument to the wealth and power of Sweden's 18th-century kings. Today, the country's bicycling monarchy has cycled off to its country resi-

dence and so the palace is used only for state occasions. The state apartments are open to the public, as is the Treasury with its array of royal jewellery dating back to 1650.

Because most of Gamla Stan is closed to cars, you can walk right up to the palace and the Storkyrkan, the Great Church. At night, the cobbled streets, Baroque decorations and gentle lighting give it the appearance of a stage set for a Mozart opera. By contrast, the simple interior of the Great Church is striking with its brick columns and black and silver altarpieces. This is the highest point of the old town and Swedish kings and queens are crowned and married here.

Given its size and international standing, Stockholm has more than its fair share of castles, monuments and palaces whose history is reflected in their magnificent architecture and decoration.

The Riddarhuset, the House of Nobles, where the upper house met in the 17th century, displays 2,500 coats of arms. On the neighbouring island is Riddarholmskyrkan church, where 600 years' worth of Swedish kings are buried. Leading down from the royal palace and Stortorget, the main square, are narrow



Wherever you look, the watersides of Stockholm are crammed with working boats, ferries and pleasure cruisers

cobbled streets filled with shops, Konditoris (pastry shops), restaurants and the old, tall merchants' houses. By contrast, Bertram and Ostermalm, to the west, have a strong American feel, with large modern blocks and wide streets of surging traffic.

Sweden takes its design seriously, and there are plenty of shop windows displaying the distinctive stark Post-Modernist style which is again fashionable. Clothes and furniture shops abound, such as Design Torget (near the Kulturhuset), the Conranesque R.O.O.M. (Alstromergatan 20) and NK (Hamngatan 18-20), the city's main department store. Prices may limit most to window shopping.

Temporarily but comfortably housed in Normalm until the opening of its new venue in 1998, when the city becomes European cultural capital, is the Modern Art Museum with a respectable collection of American and European post and abstract Impressionists.

Sweden's museums are run with gentle efficiency. The most innovative of them are on Djurgården, an island to the

north of Gamla Stan, which is almost exclusively parkland. For my money, the most striking of them all is the Vassa, which takes its name from the 300-year-old warship it houses. Nothing can prepare you for the vast, menacing presence of this 700-tonne warship, raised from Stockholm harbour where it sank 15 minutes into its maiden voyage in 1628.

Almost as awe-inspiring is the Guldrummet at the Historiska Museet in Ostermalm, a womb-like subterranean vault with gold coins and jewellery dating from 10,000 BC.

Should you crave even more water and island life, the Stockholm archipelago has 24,000 islands which can be reached by boat. Most are deserted, but others support tiny communities in traditional wooden houses. You are allowed to land on any of the islands one and walk around the shoreline, provided that you do not annoy its owner.

The summer offers guaranteed crowd-free swimming, sailing and sunbathing, especially on Sandhamn, home of

the Royal Yacht Club. During the winter you can skate from one island to another. Swedish food is fighting a losing battle against lighter more varied immigrant varieties, especially Italian. The indigenous fare is fish-based and hearty, but most restaurants, such as Diana (Brunnsgränd 2) or Hannas Krog (Skaneagatan 50) offer a successful mixture.

Similarly, Swedish patisserie is comforting rather than dainty, but irresistible combined with aromatic Swedish coffee offered in the cosy warmth of one of the city's coffee shops such as Sturekatten (Riddarsgränd 4). More effete patisserie is available at the Opera House Cafe where you can attack a smorgasbord of gateaux and coffee and look out over the water.

SIMON BROOKE
The author was a guest of SAS, the Hotel Victory and Kallhagens.

FACT FILE

- SAS (0345 010789) and BA (0345 111222) have regular flights from London to Stockholm from £205 return.
- Hotel Victory, Lilla Nygatan (00 46 8 143090, fax 202177) and Kallhagens Wardshus, Djurgårdsbrunnsvägen 10 (00 46 8 6650300, fax 6650399) offer two-night weekend breaks, including flights from £335.
- Weekend and short breaks, including flights and accommodation, are available from £220 with Norvika (0171-409 7334), and from £289 with SAS (0141-951 8988). Scan Meridian offers holidays in the Stockholm archipelago from £259 and packages to the city itself.
- Recommended guides: the Rough Guide to Scandinavia (£10.99) and Fodor's Sweden (£9.99).
- Average winter temperatures in Stockholm are -30°C; summer, 15°C-20°C. Long summer nights change the character of the city, with more events (especially eating and drinking) taking place. Winters are cold but often sunny.
- Swedish Travel and Tourism Council, 11 Montagu Place, London W1 (0171-724 5868).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 21

HAMMADA

(b) A flat rocky area of desert blown free of sand by the wind, typical of the Sahara. The Arabic word *hammada* - "Rocky wastes, with the bare exposure of fissured rocks as dominant features of the scene, form the hammada type of the Sahara."

MONADNOCK

(c) A hill or mountain of erosion-resistant rock rising above a plain. A toponym from the name of a mountain in New Hampshire, USA, having this character. The toponym appears in Melville's *Moby Dick* (1851), "his great Monadnock hump". Auden, *Age of Anxiety*, 1947: "O stiffly stand, a staid monadnock, / On her penneplain."

HEPBURN

(b) A Romanised transcription of Japanese characters. An acronym of J. C. Hepburn (1815-1911), an American missionary and physician. "These [Japanese] sounds are transcribed into Roman letters, either by the Hepburn system or by the Japanese system of 'New spelling'. The outside world sticks to the Hepburn system."

MACHER

(a) A man of importance, a bigwig; a braggart. Often derogatory. Vidkun, from the German *macher* a maker or doer. Saul Bellow, *Herzog*, 1964: "He's a fine fellow. Not like that macher, Alexander. Always some scandal about him."

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Brazil: An intoxicating look at Rio de Janeiro, a glimpse of the spectacular Iguazu Falls and mountain...

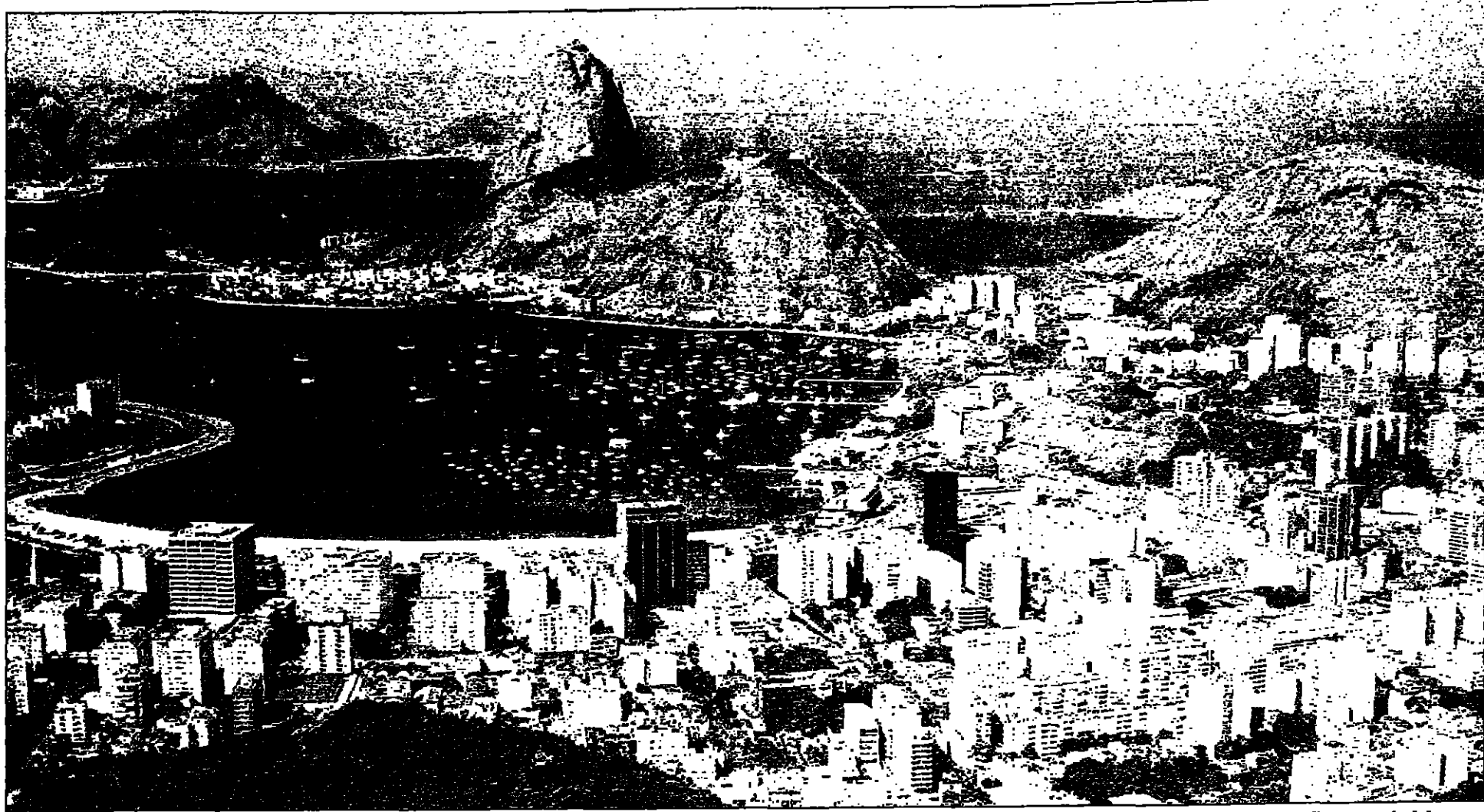
You might as well get drunk if you're not in Brazil

My love affair with Brazil started when I lived there 30 years ago and has continued, despite the infrequency of my visits. My comments following a recent trip there should, I suppose, be taken in the light of this passion.

On the basis that no two-week holiday in a country stretching 4,396km east to west and 4,394km north to south, with more than 153 million inhabitants, can begin to cover the basics, three parts of call must serve to give a flavour. The first is Rio: *Cidade Maravilhosa*. As the late, great Tom Jobim wrote in his song *Samba do Avião* (Aeroplane Samba): "My soul sings as I see Rio de Janeiro..." as you set foot on the ground at

Rio International Airport, bend down and kiss it, then grab a cab and zoom off into the city along the smart Red Route, built for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992.

Nowhere on earth has the configuration of Rio: vertiginous giant black granite rocks rise out of the tropical forested hill slopes; long fingers of aquamarine sea, rimmed by mile upon mile of white beaches, penetrate the land at every opportunity. To experience the full impact of this, absolute must-visits are the cable-car ride connecting the two large lumps in the sea known as Sugar Loaf (*Paço do Aguca*); for vertigo sufferers, like me, go only to the first lump (closing your eyes while in the cable-car) and view from there. The other essential



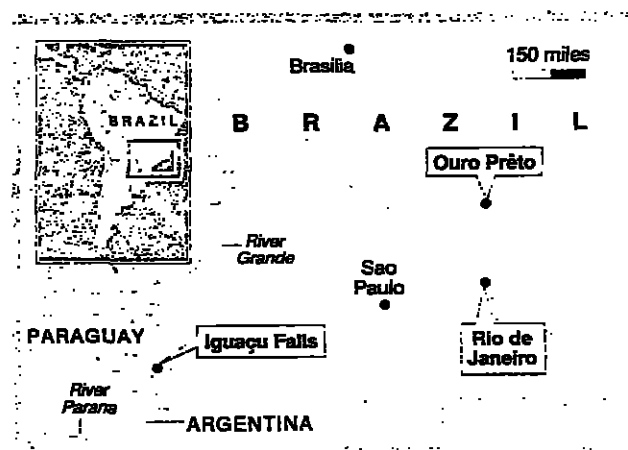
Rio, above, is boisterous, funny, romantic and utterly seductive. Copacabana Beach, below, where the sun shines all year round, is a favourite with Brazilians and visitors

viewing spot is the Corcovado mountain topped by the Christ figure which, arms outstretched, watches over the city. From here, the whole of Guanabara Bay can be seen, as well as the awesome figure of Christ from close-up. In

there, it feels like a holy place. The racial concoction that gives Brazilians their character can be seen at every street corner. Here, at any *barzinho* (little bar, *zinho* being the ubiquitous diminutive) gulping a *cafézinho*, a delectable *vitamina* (mixed fruit mushed in the whizzer) or a fiery *cachaça* (local sugar cane liquor) are the descendants of Portuguese, Indian and African forebears.

Scarcely a soul in Brazil does not have traces of all of these forebears in their blood. The mixture is boisterous, romantic, funny and utterly seductive, and Brazilian culture, especially its music, dancing, cooking, art and architecture, flourishes in the rich stew.

There's no place better to observe these characteristics than at *Estudantina*, a cavernous 1940s-style dancehall in the centre of the city. Writ large as you enter the generous wooden staircase are the words: "Enquanto houver dança haverá esperança" (While there is dancing there is hope). Lofty wooden ceilings, walls plastered in photo-



graphs, wooden floors swept by whooshing gusts of wind from the fans and the windows wide open to the warm Rio night, this has been a dancing rendezvous for 50 years and remains virtually unchanged.

A jaunty 12-piece band resplendent in cricketer whites plays the night away: this is not carnival, this is every week: *sambas* and *chorinhos*, *lambadas*, *boleros* and *salsas*, plus foxtrots and quicksteps. Participants actually hold

each other as in ballroom dancing in what is a revived craze throughout Brazil, as well as, I gather, in the rest of the world. Whole families, streetloads of people, turn up in their glad rags: old, young, fat, thin, black, white, chauffeurs and domestics, privileged and poor, the mix is infinite. Rules are written up on the walls: no short skirts, no drinks, no "rough kissing". Inside the ever-glamorous "Copa" hover the ghosts of a stropky-looking woman

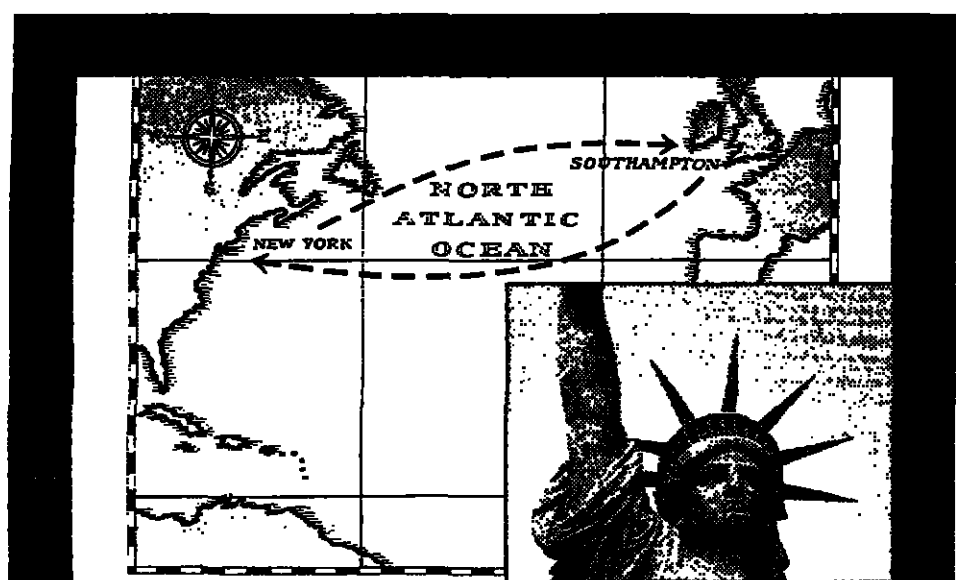
around with the grace and solicitous attention of a Fred Astaire.

In front of the beautifully revamped Copacabana Palace Hotel, kiosks selling nectar out of coconuts dot the famous swirling black and white mosaics of the beachfront. One of these, the Rainbow Kiosk, known locally as the Gay-osc, attracts huge crowds of activists and onlookers nightly. Inside the ever-glamorous "Copa" hover the ghosts of Ginger Rogers and Fred.

whose pictures line the Golden Room along with Carmen Miranda, Thomas Mann, Bing Crosby, Igor Stravinsky, Mick Jagger, Mary Pickford, Margot Fonteyn, Orson Welles and a host of other celebs (including, mind-bogglingly, John Major), all of whom have signed the famous Golden Book, going strong since 1923.

An enchanting view of Brazilian life and death can be seen in the museum of folk art at the *Casa do Pontal*, which lies at the end of the string of beaches which extend from Leme and Copacabana, through Leblon, Ipanema, Barra da Tijuca and beyond. Lovingly assembled over 40 years by Jacques van de Beusque, it contains more than 3,500 objects in clay and wood by native artists from all over Brazil. All human life is here, some of it mechanically active as in the great set pieces: a wedding or a circus or a carnival in Rio; others are static - midwives attending births, dentists and doctors operating, footballers playing, musicians thumping away.

Continued on next page



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UK: (E 62) Aberdeen - Birmingham - Bristol - Emswiler Park-Chester - Leeds - Leicester - Reading - Sheffield - E (FF 470) Aix-en-Provence - Paris-Massy - Paris-Rosny - Strasbourg-Sud - E (BF 2.900) Antwerp-Borgerhout - Brussels Airport - Brussels City Centre - Leuven - Tournai - E (DM 135) Apolda - Cottbus - Frankfurt-Rodgau - Gießen - Hamburg-Keller Strasse - Kamen/Unna - Kirchheim/Teck - Munich-Unterhaching - Paderborn - Saarbrücken - E (BF 37) Bremen - GZ (SFR 110) Lausanne-Basle - E (LIT 155 000) Bologna City - Naples - Turin City Centre - E (ESC 13.700) Lisbon - SA (SR 370) Nyon - SE (S 96) Bratislava (1) - ZUR (USS 96) Harare
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TRAVEL

19

...splendours of Ouro Preto, a gold-mining town with a few baroque surprises

BRAZIL FACT FILE

■ Summer in Brazil is from December to March. In Rio the temperature rarely drops below 28C but it can be very hot in high summer. Autumn and spring are still warm enough to swim. A light jacket might be needed at night in winter. Sunshine and blue skies can be relied on at all times.

■ Varig Brazilian Airlines has five direct flights a week to Rio de Janeiro from Heathrow. Wednesday and Thursday flights are non-stop, while Friday, Saturday and Sunday flights are via São Paulo. Return flights cost from about £620.

■ Copacabana Palace, Avenida Atlântica, 1702 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil CEP 22021-001 (00 55 21 255 7070, fax 00 55 21 235 7330). On the promenade facing Copacabana beach, this impressive white-stuccoed edifice is Rio's most traditional and luxurious hotel. Cost per person sharing a double/twin room, room only, from £70-£100 a night. Suites from £125 per person per night. Reservations: Orient-Express Hotels 0181-568 3366.

■ Tours arranged through Classico Turismo, Vera Joppert, Av N Sra de Copacabana 1059/805, 22060-000 (00 55 21 287 3390, fax 00 55 21 521 4636).

■ Copacabana Palace and Classico tours may also be booked through Latin America Travel, 7 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JX (0171-630 0070, fax 0171-630 9900), or Journey Latin America, 14-16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (0181-747 8315, fax 0181-742 1312).

■ Parque das Aves (Bird Park), Rodovia das Cataratas is situated near to the Iguaçu Falls National Park (00 55 21 523 1007).

■ Casa do Pontal, 3295 Estrada do Pontal (off Avenida Sernambetiba) (00 55 21 437 6278/226 3540/226 4914). Open Sat-Sun 2-6pm; about £2.30. Allow about half a day for the visit.



The statue of Christ which overlooks Guanabara Bay and the city of Rio from the top of Corcovado mountain

families at dinner, schoolrooms, shoemakers, even journalists sucking their pens are depicted in loving detail.

Your second port of call must be the Iguaçu Falls, one of the wonders of the world. This is no mere waterfall any more than the Sahara is a pile of sand. A two-hour flight from Rio gets you to Iguaçu, which sits on the frontiers of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay. On the Brazilian side, we approached the falls from below by large rubber boat with two big engines. Although clad in what felt like large condoms, we were soaked to the skin by the time we'd white-watered it up to the nearest fall. The pilot seemed to sense a game crowd in our boat. Thrills? We had 'em in buckets.

On the Argentinian side is

the spot where *The Mission* was filmed. This is jaw-droppingly awesome. Huge flocks of terns wheel into the spray for their morning shower, looping in and out of the almost permanent rainbow. Nothing can prepare you for the sight. Our guide says there are three or four suicides a year here: a spectacular and very certain way to go.

Near Iguaçu is a bird park which I felt duty bound to visit in honour of Juliet, my Amazon parrot. Opened in 1994, it is a feast of feathers in their natural habitat. Flocks of butterflies (there are 3,500 different species) accompany us everywhere we go, alighting all over us, six or eight per head in places. Some of the birds are nearly as friendly

and numerous. Talk about Eden... The third port of call must be Ouro Preto, an exquisite, baroque-style gold-mining town in the mountains about 480km northeast of Rio. You fly into Belo Horizonte from Rio (one hour) and then take a two-hour bus or taxi ride. But it is pure joy when you get there.

I have recently been re-drawn to it by reading the letters of the American poet Elizabeth Bishop who lived in Ouro Preto. "Here where all the world still stops," she wrote in one of her poems (*Under the Window, Ouro Preto*), and while more torments thunder past it than when she was there in the late 1960s and early 1970s, her house Casa Mariana still clings to the side of the mountain she described so vividly in her letters. As I

sat in a nearby bar downing my *caipirinha* and watching night fall over this blessed valley of 45,000 people and 20 gilded churches, the moon rose, and I wished I too could write poetry. Around every corner in Ouro Preto a shock of beauty lies in wait. Built along the sides of a valley, the painted houses hang off the sides; the churches soar above it all. Aleijadinho, (a brutal nickname meaning "little cripple") was the famous sculptor responsible for much of the town's baroque decoration.

For me, three words sum up the essence of Brazil: *Caipirinha* (Kaip-ee-ring-ee) - a drink more potent, moreish and gratifying than anything you'll ever taste. First acquire a bottle of Cachaça (cache-arse-er), a sugar cane alcohol costing about £17 in Soho or

New York, as well as for a few dollars in every *barzinho* in Brazil. Next come lemons; lemons won't do. Cut them into eighths and place five or six in the bottom of a glass. Add a heaped teaspoon of caster sugar, crush with a pestle or blunt instrument. Splash a generous amount of cachaça into the mixture and fill with broken ice. Drink and repeat.

The second word is *Jeito* or *Jeitinho* (jay-too or jay-teen-oo), a word you need to get around Brazil. It means "a way", as in "There must be a way to jump this queue, park this car and so on". *Jeito* is a bit of charm, a lot of patience, and a ton of *chutpah*. You can acquire it, as opposed to being born with it, and after a few weeks it will have magically become part of your basic equipment. A couple of books

will help you get around: *Rio: the Guide* by Christopher Rickard and *How to be a Carioca: The Alternative Guide for the Tourist in Rio* by Priscilla Ann Goslin.

And the last word is *Saudades* (sow-dah-dez), which there isn't a word for in English. They are wistful longings more powerful than nostalgia, and are felt both for people and places; crucially for Brazil when you leave. Someone told me they also include "might have beens", which adds another twist to the knife in the heart. I'm feeling them right now. Only a *caipirinha* might assuage the pain. Or perhaps two.

LIZ CALDER

● The author was a guest of Varig Airlines and the Copacabana Palace Hotel.

An Ernest look at life

There is a scene in Ernest Hemingway's memoir of Paris, *A Moveable Feast*, where he sits in his attic room at Rue Descartes, his pen iced to a halt by the cold. He considers buying kindling and wood at the corner shop, but worries that the fire may not take and his limited money will be squandered. Instead, he walks out into the rain.

"I walked past the Lycée Henri Quatre and the ancient church of St-Etienne-du-Mont and the windswept Place du Pantheon and cut in for shelter to the right and finally came out on the lee side of the Boulevard St-Michel and on

flat that had no hot water and no inside toilet facilities except an antiseptic container, not uncomfortable to anyone who was used to a Michigan out-house". None of the writers was bothered by lack of comfort. In 1928, Orwell moved in down the road at 6 Rue du Pot-de-Fer. He says the concierge in the equally grubby hotel opposite once came out to berate one of her residents for squashing bed bugs on the wallpaper: "Why can't you throw them out of the window like everyone else?"

There are two ways of discovering Hemingway country. The first and easiest is to join Paris Walking Tours for their two-hour trip round the area. The guide, Oriol Caine, includes the other landmarks on the hill Sainte Genevieve like the Pantheon and the church of St-Etienne, and quotes from the various authors. The walk is amusing and thorough-

ly recommended. For the more independent, a copy of *Paris - a Literary Companion* will take you to essential sites. It includes maps and quotes from the works of many authors which can be read on the doorstep or in the café in question.

The Hemingway addict must carry a copy of *A Moveable Feast*. As he notes: "Paris was always worth it and you received return for whatever you brought to it. But this is how Paris was in the early days when we were very poor and very happy."

KATE MUIR

● *Paris - a Literary Companion* by Ian Littlewood John Murray publishers. £11.99. *Paris Walking Tours, Hemingway's Paris* (001 48 09 21 40). *August 1996 special: Festival d'été de la chanson populaire française*. 8.30pm and 10.30pm daily at Théâtre Montmartre-Galabru (42 23 15 85).

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Mark Warner

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

A la carte holidays

EXPERIENCED long-haul travellers are demanding more flexibility and independence in the choice of itineraries and accommodation, says Sue Biggs of Kuoni (01306 740500), one of Britain's top long-haul specialists. Smaller companies have been offering tailor-made holidays for years, but now Kuoni is able to assemble and price "à la carte" holidays instantly, using the brochure as the basic menu, without surcharge.

For 1996-97, Cuba, Chile, cruises from the Maldives, Phuket and Bali are being introduced, with special offers for single travellers and children. For example, a 14-night Images of India tour, visiting Cochin, Kumarakom and Periyar, costs from £1,299.

Battle tours

ON THE 40th anniversary of the 1956 Allied landings at Suez, Holts' Tours (01304 612248) is running a ten-night trip which visits the landing area at Port Said and other battlefields. Sites of the 1967 and 1973 Egypt-Israel wars are also included on the tour, plus the Pyramids and the Tutankhamun treasures in Cairo. The trip, which leaves on November 1, costs from £1,347.

Japan saver

THERE ARE savings of £500 on a ten-day tour to Japan departing on September 13: the tour, which includes flights, accommodation

and visits to Tokyo, Mount Fuji, Kyoto, Osaka and a journey on the bullet train, costs £1,290 from Japan Experience (01703 730830).

Truffle hunt

IT'S THEORETICALLY possible to make a profit on the Alternative Travel Group's (01865 513333) Umbrian truffle hunting holidays in October and December. As well as the search for the elusive and expensive "black diamonds", the seven-night holiday includes cookery demonstrations, walks and visits to churches, museums and castles. The trip costs between £1,035 and £1,075 for flights, all meals and three-star hotel accommodation in Norcia.

Golfing orgy

GOLFING specialists Longshot Golf (01730 230361) is offering an Around the World in 30 Days golfing orgy in October 1997. The tour takes off at Wentworth, and then heads off to famous courses in the United Arab Emirates, the Pines in Brisbane, the Boulder in Arizona and Sentosa in Singapore. Accommodation, flights and green fees are included in the price of £11,000.

Bonn chance

AN EIGHT-DAY Beethoven Marathon is being held in the composer's native Bonn from September 21 with a grand finale of 31 hours of non-stop music. Locations include the church where he was baptised, the church where he learnt to play the organ, and the Redoute where he met Haydn.

British conductor Roger Norrington and the London Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are taking part. Moswin Tours (0116 271 9922) offers three-night B&B breaks from £273, including flights, and can arrange all concert tickets.

Thai down

NEW ROUTES for the Eastern and Oriental Express (0171-805 5100) include Kanchanaburi in western Thailand and the bridge over the River Kwai this autumn, and a journey between Bangkok and Chiang Mai early next year. Prices for the two-night Singapore, River Kwai to Bangkok trip are from £890, the one-night Bangkok to Chiang Mai route from £550.

Children free

MORE THAN 700 hotels and guest houses in Austria offer free bedrooms for children under 12 during the Family Autumn period between September 1 and November 3. Details from the Austrian Tourist Office (0171-629 0461).

Late choices

TRAVELLERS seeking last-minute bargain holidays where accommodation is allocated on arrival (the type of holiday that probably generates more complaints from travellers than any other) will be able to pre-select certain requirements on First Choice's new Late Choice scheme, available from travel agents.

Among the categories you can opt for are Near the Beach, where accommodation will either be on the beach or within 200 metres,



Enjoy the Austrian Tirol and save money: 700 hotels and guest houses offer free rooms for children under 12 in the autumn

Families. Couples, or even Naturist, with easy access to nudist beaches.

Cape escape

A NINE-NIGHT holiday in October based in Hermanus, the

whaling capital of South Africa, includes land-based whale watching. The inquisitive mammals play in the surf a stone's throw from the village.

The trip includes tours of Cape Town, the Cape of Good Hope nature reserve and a two-day drive

along the coast. The price of £1,485 from Discover the World (01737 218800) includes return flights via Amsterdam from Heathrow, or any UK regional airport, all accommodation, some meals, various excursions and whale-watching trips.

CORRECTION
Educational Visits and Exchanges is at 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN (0171-389 4004) and Regent Holidays is 15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR (0117-921 1711) not as published in Weekend of August 10.

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GAMES

21

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

British Brilliance

THE BRITISH Championship in Nottingham finished last night, but of the 341 games played, probably the most spectacular was played in the very first round.

It is every player's dream to hunt the opponent's king in destruction and deliver checkmate after a chase winning the entire board. For Andrew Martin this dream came spectacularly true.

White: Tyson Mordue
Black: Andrew Martin
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6
Not one of the most testing lines against the Sicilian. If White wants to try something offbeat 3 c3 and 3 Bb5 are probably superior alternatives.

3... d4 4 Bb5 e5. Placing a severe barrier in the intended path of White's queen's bishop. Indeed, the dark square strategy implemented by this move forms a leitmotif for the rest of the game.

5 0-0 6 Bb2 Bg7
This idea of forcing through d4 simply places too much strain on White's centre.

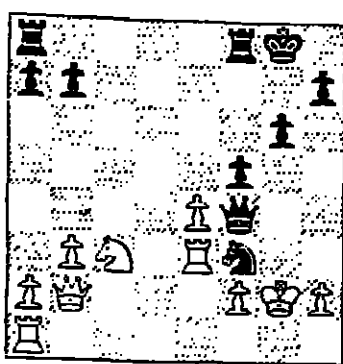
7... Nge7 8 d4. A possible improvement is the preliminary 8 h3 to prevent... Bg4.

8... exd4 9 cxd4 0-0
10 Qd2 Bg4 11 dxe5 Bxb2
12 Qxd2 Bx3 13 Qxd6

This pawn snatch may look like unwarranted greed, but in any case after 13 g3 dxe5 Black still exerts an unpleasant grip over the central dark squares, with... Nd4 being a particular threat. Since, in any case, White will inevitably be saddled with shattered kingside pawns, he may as well see some material compensation.

13... Qxd6 14 Bxc6 Nxc6
15 g3 Nxd4 16 Nc3 f5
It is a sign of White's helplessness that he cannot even protect his weak pawn on f5. Before capturing this, though, Black first musters his heavy artillery in the f-file.

17 Kf2 Qf4 18 Rf1 Nxf3. Also strong is 18... Qd3, but with the move he played, Black already has a forcing combinational sequence in mind. 19 Re3.



With this move White must have hoped to gain a temporary respite, but now Martin sacrifices his knight to drive the white king into the open.

19... Rxe3 20 Kxf3 fxe4
21 Ke4 Rxe3 22 Kd3 Rxe3
23 Kd3 Rxe3 24 Kd3 Rxe3
25 Kd3 Rxe3 26 Kd3 Rxe3
27 Kd3 Rxe3 28 Kd3 Rxe3
29 Kd3 Rxe3 30 Kd3 Rxe3
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67 Kd3 Rxe3 68 Kd3 Rxe3
69 Kd3 Rxe3 70 Kd3 Rxe3
71 Kd3 Rxe3 72 Kd3 Rxe3
73 Kd3 Rxe3 74 Kd3 Rxe3
75 Kd3 Rxe3 76 Kd3 Rxe3
77 Kd3 Rxe3 78 Kd3 Rxe3
79 Kd3 Rxe3 80 Kd3 Rxe3
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91 Kd3 Rxe3 92 Kd3 Rxe3
93 Kd3 Rxe3 94 Kd3 Rxe3
95 Kd3 Rxe3 96 Kd3 Rxe3
97 Kd3 Rxe3 98 Kd3 Rxe3
99 Kd3 Rxe3 100 Kd3 Rxe3

Also possible is 21... Rad8 to cut off the white king in mid-board, but the game as played, which leads to a forced win with checks, certainly cannot be faulted.

The white king cannot retreat as that would cost at least the queen.

25 Ke4 b5+. A neat point which closes the door around the white king. 26 Nxb5 in response would again expose the white queen to capture.

26 Kd4 Qd4+ 27 Kxb5. If 27 Ka3, Qd6+ 28 b4 Qxb4 29 Kd3 Qd4 mate.

27 Kd7 Rf5+ 28 Ke5 Qb6+ 29 Kd6 Qb7+ 30 Ke5 Qb6+ 31 Kd6 Qb7+ 32 Ke5 Qb6+ 33 Kd6 Qb7+ 34 Ke5 Qb6+ 35 Kd6 Qb7+ 36 Ke5 Qb6+ 37 Kd6 Qb7+ 38 Ke5 Qb6+ 39 Kd6 Qb7+ 40 Ke5 Qb6+ 41 Kd6 Qb7+ 42 Ke5 Qb6+ 43 Kd6 Qb7+ 44 Ke5 Qb6+ 45 Kd6 Qb7+ 46 Ke5 Qb6+ 47 Kd6 Qb7+ 48 Ke5 Qb6+ 49 Kd6 Qb7+ 50 Ke5 Qb6+ 51 Kd6 Qb7+ 52 Ke5 Qb6+ 53 Kd6 Qb7+ 54 Ke5 Qb6+ 55 Kd6 Qb7+ 56 Ke5 Qb6+ 57 Kd6 Qb7+ 58 Ke5 Qb6+ 59 Kd6 Qb7+ 60 Ke5 Qb6+ 61 Kd6 Qb7+ 62 Ke5 Qb6+ 63 Kd6 Qb7+ 64 Ke5 Qb6+ 65 Kd6 Qb7+ 66 Ke5 Qb6+ 67 Kd6 Qb7+ 68 Ke5 Qb6+ 69 Kd6 Qb7+ 70 Ke5 Qb6+ 71 Kd6 Qb7+ 72 Ke5 Qb6+ 73 Kd6 Qb7+ 74 Ke5 Qb6+ 75 Kd6 Qb7+ 76 Ke5 Qb6+ 77 Kd6 Qb7+ 78 Ke5 Qb6+ 79 Kd6 Qb7+ 80 Ke5 Qb6+ 81 Kd6 Qb7+ 82 Ke5 Qb6+ 83 Kd6 Qb7+ 84 Ke5 Qb6+ 85 Kd6 Qb7+ 86 Ke5 Qb6+ 87 Kd6 Qb7+ 88 Ke5 Qb6+ 89 Kd6 Qb7+ 90 Ke5 Qb6+ 91 Kd6 Qb7+ 92 Ke5 Qb6+ 93 Kd6 Qb7+ 94 Ke5 Qb6+ 95 Kd6 Qb7+ 96 Ke5 Qb6+ 97 Kd6 Qb7+ 98 Ke5 Qb6+ 99 Kd6 Qb7+ 100 Ke5 Qb6+

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PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (13), Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, August 21.



"As part of the new NHS efficiency scheme, Mr Trotter will be sharing the bed with you."

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Eyn of North Walsham, Norfolk.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAMAMADA

- a. A Muslim feast
- b. Bare rock
- c. A Libyan market

MONADNOCK

- a. A rock plant
- b. The Huron peace pipe
- c. A steep mountain

HEPBURN

- a. To overact
- b. Transcription of Japanese
- c. To procrastinate

MACHER

- a. A VIP
- b. A hand axe
- c. Aggressively masculine

Answers on page 16

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



The Monty Python team goes in search of the Holy Grail on 7th Level CD-Rom

NOT EVEN a biker's leather uniform could save you from scratches in Road Rash. Sega Saturn's masterful motorcycle racer. You start in 15th place and all that's keeping you from first position are a bunch of awkward obstacles, including pedestrians, fire hydrants and oncoming cars. Come off your bike at speed and you fly through the air before unceremoniously crashing onto the pavement.

Before you can rejoin the race, you must dart back to your crumpled cycle and remount. Further hazards come from your fellow competitors who will gladly employ fists and iron bars to nuzzle you — so you have to do it to them before they do it to you.

Also to be avoided — by outrunning them if you can — are over-zealous motorcycle cops.

What separates the Hondas from the Harley Davidsons in Road Rash are the stunning photorealistic backgrounds. Painted in inviting pastel shades, the city and seascapes are superbly detailed but most dreamy is the undulating straight road, carving its way through America's Napa Valley.

Mankind seems to have been on the road for the best part of a

thousand years in search of the legendary Holy Grail — the sacred cup supposedly used by Jesus Christ at the last supper. First on its trail were the knights of King Arthur, and more recently, in the mid-Seventies, it was the Python team when they brought us *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Now the best parts of the film have been reworked to form the basis of a CD-Rom game from 7th Level — *Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail*. Frankly, any title which boldly declares "No Refunds" in an early screen can't be all bad.

The game is set in England in AD 932 with God charging a hapless King Arthur to find the bowl which brims with magical, mysterious powers. Obedient Arthur, accompanied by his faithful servant Patsy, rounds up the lads, starting with Lancelot and Galahad, and off they all trot — to the sound of clapping coconuts but without real horses.

A succession of encounters, challenges and puzzles follow, all boasting a distinctive Pythonesque flavour. Some scenes must be

solved if you are to head onward and upward while others are little more than a shallow distraction, such as Castle Anthrax inhabited by sex-starved ladies, where you can play the naughty-but-nice Spank the Virgin game. Alternatively, when you encounter the mythical Black Knight, you can challenge him to a fight and soon find yourself slicing him into little

pieces. Other nonsense games include the self-explanatory Catch the Cow and Burn the Witch.

Computer games based on Python adventures have until now had a chequered history. It seemed at one point that anyone could buy up Python material and proceed unchecked with any spin-off which came to mind, good or bad. Even 7th Level was guilty of this a year or two ago with an earlier spin-off — its *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time* which was, to my mind, a waste of time and a complete waste of money.

However, this Grail game has had much more thought put into it. Eric Idle serves as the title's executive producer and other members of the Python team contributing voices for the CD-Rom translation include Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam — but, sadly, not John Cleese.

The game looks and feels exceptionally good. The animations, sound effects and music score all combine to produce well-honed computer entertainment. Some of the games are simple, some even

fairly bland, but the humour levels are set high enough to carry the game's low-lights.

The reward for finally tracking down the elusive grail is a scene from the film which originally ended up on the cutting room floor — King Brian the Wild.

The Holy Grail trail is also the basis for another CD-Rom computer game, *Azrael's Tear* — Search for the Holy Grail. This is a clunky point-and-click adventure set in a 3-D environment in which you play a futuristic thief charged with finding the cup in a vast underground temple. You start by advancing perhaps too slowly along dank corridors in search of clues.

Despite some fine sound effects, the game layout is run-of-the-mill and a fiddle to master. Nor are the graphics especially clear, brown being the predominant colour of most of the corridors. It's a shame because if Azrael's Tear looked and behaved as good as it sounds, you could stay with it for hours at a time. As it is, the chances of mousing your way to the bitter end are slim.

"And now for something completely different," Catchphrase from the *Monty Python's Flying Circus* television series (1969-74).

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Haider - Kahler, Vienna 1959.

With his pressure on the long diagonal and along the h-file White has very promising play. How did he now make the most of this?

Send your answers on a postcard to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rd6

Last week's winners: P. L. Vasil, Aberdullais, Neath; C. Martin, Pontyclun, R. C. Taff; L. Hilton, Sutton Coldfield.

8... Qxd6 14 Bxc6 Nxc6
15 g3 Nxd4 16 Nc3 f5
It is a sign of White's helplessness that he cannot even protect his weak pawn on f5. Before capturing this, though, Black first musters his heavy artillery in the f-file.

17 Kf2 Qf4 18 Rf1 Nxf3. Also strong is 18... Qd3, but with the move he played, Black already has a forcing combinational sequence in mind. 19 Re3.

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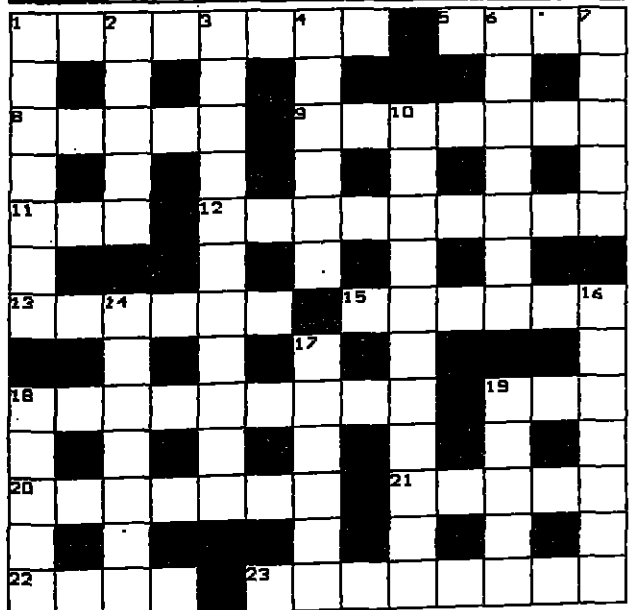
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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 863

ACROSS

- 1 Stone-slinging device (8)
- 5 Gulp (4)
- 8 Landed country house (5)
- 9 Exam certificate (7)
- 11 Part of circumference (3)
- 12 Malicious (letter) (6-3)
- 13 Comfort (in distress) (6)
- 15 Cart; heap over tomb (6)
- 18 Pasternak novel (2,7)
- 19 Edgar Allan —, US writer (3)
- 20 Nunnery (7)
- 21 Impression, picture (5)

